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* * * VICTORIAN SISTERS' CONFERENCE. * *

The Eighteenth Annual Conference of the Sisters, held in Melbourne on April 8th, 1903, was the best in point of numbers we have ever had, though the acoustic properties of the Masonic Hall left something to be desired. The experiment of holding a morning session was a great success, 211 sisters being present before luncheon. The numbers increased during the day, till at night fully 600 were present.

The morning devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. Christopher, sen., of Geelong, one of the first sister workers in connection with the Conference.

The President, Mrs. A. B. Maston, presided at the morning and afternoon sessions, and the Hon. President, Mrs. C. L. Thurgood, during the evening.

It was resolved on a motion to nominate by ballot seven sisters to draw up a new Constitution to be submitted to Conference, 1904. The following were appointed:—Mrs. C. L. Thurgood, Mrs. J. E. Brown, Mrs. R. Lyall, Mrs. W. C. Craigie, Mrs. A. Millis, Mrs. W. Forbes, Mrs. R. B. Davis.

The following were nominated on the Foreign Mission Committee:—Mrs. A. B. Maston, Mrs. B. Huntsman, Mrs. Chown.

Mrs. Christopher, of Geelong, was appointed Essayist for next year.

Mrs. W. C. Craigie read the Obituary Report, showing that 21 of our sisters had gone home, five of them being over 80 years old. Mrs. R. Thompson then sang "Peace, Perfect Peace."

The Executive, Treasurer's, Hospital Visitation, Prayer Meeting and Temperance Reports were received.

The afternoon devotional meeting was led by Mrs. P. Ludbrook.

The welcome greeting was given by Mrs. Huntsman, with responses by Mrs. C. L. Thurgood, U.S.A.; Mrs. Brister, England; Mrs. Russell, N.S.W.; Mrs. Rankine, S.A.; Mrs. Brown, Tasmania.

The President's annual address was then read by Mrs. Maston, after which Home Missions were reported by Mrs. Pittman;

Dorcas, Mrs. McLellan; Mission Bands, Miss Huntsman.

A most interesting resumé of sisters' work since 1886 was given by Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook, after which the sisters who were delegates to the First Sisters' Conference were introduced to the meeting—Sisters Goldthorpe, Maston, Spicer, Huntsman, R. Lyall, Millis, Forbes, Christopher, McGowan, Schofield, Rowles. Some were reported in other States, and some have gone home.

The President then introduced the following visitors to the meeting:—Sisters Eiserman, Brooker, Tonkin, Goldsworthy, Johnston, Rankine, Forsyth, P. Pittman, Haviland and Grinstead, South Australia; Adcock, Brown (2), G. A. Smith, Bradley, C. Ludbrook and Rodd, Tasmania; A. Morris, J. Hindle, McCauley, Russell, Elliott (2), Morrison, A. Illingworth, Granger, E. Kingsbury, Williams, Andrews (2), McPherson, Shearston, T. Bagley, Ashwood (3) and A. A. Bray, New South Wales; Mrs. Brister, Andrew-st., Leicester, England; Pond, Wardle, Thompson, Rhodes, Mathews and Wright, West Australia.

The Victorian visitors were as follows:—Sisters Holmes and Sheehan, Red Hill; Brown, Christopher and Stead, Geelong; King and Reed, Ballarat; Beer, Drummond; McCollough, Thompson and McConnell, Warrnambool; Black, Leng, Rose and McCallum, Kaniva; Pearl, Lancefield; Southwick, Sims and Nash, Bendigo; Rankine, Dinyarrak; Jenkins, Horsham; Rees, Toolamba; F. Henderson, Hopetoun; Connor and Spicer, Castlemaine; Archer, Archerton; Lawrence and Weise, Lillimur; Clydesdale and Hovey, Brim; Dudley and Lee, Shepparton.

The evening devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. Chown.

The roll-call was answered by 24 churches.

Greetings were received from New South Wales per Mrs. Russell; South Australia, Mrs. Rankine; North Adelaide, Mrs. P. Pittman. Unley and Norwood Dorcas Societies also sent greetings. A letter of con-

gratulation was read from Mrs. D. King, England, and one from Mrs. Tickle representing the English Sisters' Conference. A kind sisterly message from Mrs. Henshaw, Adelaide; Mrs. C. A. Gray, Wellington, N.Z., the first Secretary of the Conference sent greetings. Mrs. D. A. Ewers, W.A., and Mrs. F. A. Collins, Hobart, at one time Secretaries, also sent greetings.

Mrs. C. L. Thurgood gave the Hon. President's address, and Mrs. Huntsman a missionary address.

The Essay was read by Mrs. J. E. Brown. Subject, "Character Building."

A paper was read by Mrs. Maston on "The Sunday School Teacher's Opportunity."

Mrs. Moysey prepared and read the resolutions, which included thanks to Swanston-st. officers, for the use of their building during the year; Mesdames Gow, Roy Thompson, McClelland and Miss Benson, for their beautiful songs; Miss Pittman, as pianist.

The following were elected officers for 1903-1904:—President, Mrs. J. A. Davies; Vice Presidents, Mrs. Maston, Mrs. Chown; Treasurer, Mrs. B. J. Kemp; Secretaries, Misses Hill and Rometsch.

Collection, £8.

EXECUTIVE REPORT.

1902-1903.

Madam President.

Dear Sisters,—We were given as our motto text for the year, "I will go forward in the strength of the Lord."

There were twelve ordinary and one special meeting held during the past year, with an average attendance of thirty-nine sisters. Six of our number did not miss a meeting, and twelve only missed one.

We accepted with much regret the resignation of our president, Mrs. J. A. Davies. We deeply deplore the death of our Bro. J. A. Davies, who always took a keen interest in our work, and was ever ready to give us encouragement and advice. As the oldest worker on our Executive, Mrs. A. B. Maston was unanimously elected president.

Home Mission Work has occupied a large share of our thoughts and prayers. We have collected £125 during the year, and £2268 in seventeen years. The report, to be read by our superintendent this afternoon, will tell of the meetings held—though not so frequently as in former years, owing to the missions conducted by the brethren—but Home Missionary drawing-room meetings have been held and the sisters reminded of their privileges in connection with this department of work.

The collectors spent a pleasant social evening comparing notes on the difficulty of getting "that penny," as well as listening to addresses and musical items.

Our Dorcas Committee are deserving of highest praise for their splendid year's record. When you hear the number of garments made, mended and distributed, not to mention the stockings—and some of the Burwood boys hold the championship for making holes, you must say they are not unworthy followers of her of whom it is said, "Her life was full of kind and charitable actions, which she was always doing."

The Temperance Committee have not been inactive. Quite a number of our sisters wear the badge of the W.C.T.U., and some of our best sisters are workers in the Temperance cause.

We have held quarterly Sisters' United Prayer and Praise Meetings. They have been well attended, some helpful papers have been read, and we are glad to report more interest in this department. Hospital visitation has not been neglected. Many have been cheered by the kindly visits.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Huntsman we have received missionary letters from Sisters Misses Thompson and Tonkin, and Brethren Stubbin and P. A. Davey. We also had the pleasure of an address from Mrs. Davis of the C. I. Mission.

It has been a great joy to welcome home our honorary president, Sister C. L. Thurgood, and learn from her of methods of work in the United States, our only regret being that her health prevents her taking the active part in the work she loves so dearly. We pray that our Father will bless the means used and fully restore her. We have also the pleasure of the company of Sisters Lee and Chown to-day, after their visit to the Homeland. Sisters Morley of Corowa, Bowden and Verco of Adelaide, have been visitors to our Executive during the year.

May we as a sisterhood grow in grace, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA E. HILL } Secs.
M. L. ROMETSCH }

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

CONFIRMED, 1903.

RECEIPTS.

To Dinner and Tea Fund ..	£7 10 6
Tickets, Wednesday ..	7 5 6
Collection Sisters' Conference ..	4 10 2
Friday Dinner and Tea ..	15 11 6
Saturday ..	7 17 3
Knife and Fork Fund ..	0 18 0
	£43 18 11

EXPENDITURE.

By Catering ..	35 7 7
Secretary's a/c ..	2 8 5
Hire of Dinner Plates ..	0 8 4
Firewood ..	0 4 4
Cutting Coppers ..	0 19 6
Repairing Boiler ..	0 3 6
Washing and Washing-up ..	0 19 3
Haddow & Son, on a/c ..	3 8 0
	£43 18 11

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1903.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from Executive, 1902 ..	£1 9 11
Col. Sisters' Executive, including Jubilee Fund and Special Col. for Knife and Fork Fund ..	14 4 0
Sale of Constitutions ..	0 3 5
Col. by Mrs. Millis, for Knife and Fork Fund ..	7 4 9
	£23 2 2

EXPENDITURE.

By Donation to Caretaker ..	0 19 6
Austral Printing a/c ..	6 6 0
Letterheads and Constitutions ..	0 17 6
Haddow & Son a/c ..	8 0 0
Bal. in Hand, including Jubilee Fund ..	6 19 2
	£23 2 2

Audited and found correct,

ROBERT LYALL.

23/3/03.

ALICE M. KEMP, Treas. LOUIE ROMETSCH, Fin. Sec.

HOSPITAL VISITORS' REPORT.

Only those who have lain on beds of sickness for many days and weeks, and in some cases months, can appreciate the pleasure of receiving a visitor who tries to help them to forget their troubles even for a short time.

During the year we have paid 45 visits to the Alfred Hospital, delivered 172 periodicals and 135 tracts, and taken scones, cake and fruit. Homoeopathic Hospital—45 visits; 240 periodicals and 158 tracts distributed; 2 large parcels of old linen; fruit, lollies and cakes. We have paid 20 visits to the Melbourne Hospital, distributed 124 books and 124 tracts, and taken fruit, etc. The Queen Victoria Hospital has been visited 9 times; 25 periodicals and 25 tracts were distributed, besides other good things. We have paid 6 visits to the Children's Hospital, distributed 344 periodicals suitable for children, 200 Christmas cards, and lollies. We were told at this hospital that they were always glad to receive visitors from the church of Christ, as they were considered their most consistent patrons. Appeals for financial support are sent out annually to every Sunday School in the State, but in very many instances without receiving any reply. We were informed that secretaries of the church of Christ invariably replied, even when they had no money to send, or only small amounts.

The Women's Hospital has been visited 7 times, and 40 books and 40 tracts distributed. We have paid 4 visits to the Deaf and Dumb Institution, distributed 72 illuminated cards and 12 papers, and taken some fruit. The Blind Asylum has had 4 visits. Cakes and fruit were given to the children. One of their most promising musicians is a daughter of one of our country brethren. Private hospitals have received 13 visits.

Total number of visits, 149; tracts distributed, 502; books, etc., 1229.

We always enclose one of the Austral tracts in the books or periodicals, and the Committee will be glad to receive suitable

literature from any of the brethren, or from the children attending our Sunday Schools. We are pleased to state that we invariably receive every kindness and courtesy from the nurses of the hospitals we visit. That our visits do good and are much appreciated we have every reason to believe. We have a letter sent by the brother of one of our sister patients, expressing thanks and gratitude for the services we were able to render whilst she was in hospital.

MRS. T. DARNLEY, Supt.

PRAYER MEETING REPORT.

This committee begs leave to report nine churches that are holding prayer meetings, three more than were reported last year.

We rejoice in this, for of all of our departments it is the prayer meeting that brings us in close touch with our Master, and it is there we sit together "in heavenly places," and return to our home duties encouraged and refreshed. "Prayer is the power that moves the hand that moves the world," and we would lovingly urge our sisters in all the churches to set aside some time in the midst of life's duties for this sweet communion with our Lord. It has been a great pleasure to visit these meetings. We have made about 28 visits, and each time realised more than ever how good it is to wait upon the Lord. We ask for this Jubilee year that every church in Victoria will join with us in this blessed service, for "those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint."

We have Sisters' Prayer Meetings in the following churches, with average attendances: Swanston-st., 10; Lygon-st., 17; Prahran, 20; Footscray, 8; South Melbourne, 9; Malvern, 9; Preston, 10; North Fitzroy, 20. Ascot Vale organised a Sisters' Prayer Meeting on March 4th. There were 18 sisters present.

Very respectfully submitted,

MRS. M. TRINNICK, Supt.

MRS. C. FORBES

MRS. NELSON } Committee.

MRS. MOYSEY }

TEMPERANCE REPORT.

In presenting our annual report we would express our gratitude to our heavenly Father for his goodness in sparing us through another year, and for permitting us to be co-workers with him in fighting the evils of the drink traffic.

We held eight drawingroom meetings. In June last we had the pleasure of welcoming back to Australia our beloved Sister Thurgood, who has always taken a great interest in the cause of temperance.

A Local Option poll was taken at North Melbourne, when 37 hotels out of 57 were voted to be closed, but we are sorry to say that the Government of the day have taken no further steps towards closing them. Last week a deputation waited upon the Chief Secretary, and he has promised to do what he can in the matter.

We started a Cradle Roll, and have ten babies, whose mothers have promised to

train them up in purity and temperance till they are old enough to think for themselves.

"We shall be what'er you make us,
Make us wise and make us good,
Make us strong for time of trial,
Teach us temperance, self-denial,
Patience, kindness, fortitude."

Balance in hand, £1/18/-.

F. MILLIS.

BANDS OF HOPE.

NORTH RICHMOND.—This is a young society, having a membership of 100. Abstinence from tobacco as well as from alcohol is advocated. Anti-cigarette pledge-books used. Programmes arranged by members of committee.

B. PAYNE.

NORTH FITZROY.—Our present year commenced in August, 1902, when we had 47 names on the roll. At present we have 187, showing an increase of 140 in six months. Average attendance, 90. We have had 25 meetings. We held a picnic on New Year's Day, which passed off satisfactorily. We paid two visits during the year, one to the Brunswick Wesleyan Church, and one to the Richmond church of Christ, received one visit, and finished up the half-year with an instructive and interesting limelight lecture given by the Victorian Alliance. Our financial position is strong. F. WATSON, Sec.

FOOTSCRAY.—Meetings are held fortnightly with good attendances. There are over 100 names on our pledge-book. We are now taking up the work of the Anti-cigarette and Smoking League. Our society assisted the other temperance societies of Footscray in raising a petition to the City Council, asking them to forbid the sale of intoxicating liquor at the local sports ground, which we are pleased to say was granted. We were also successful in assisting to stop a wine licence being granted in our city. We had a visit from T. J. Cook, of the Temperance-Committee. The meeting took the form of a lantern entertainment. A temperance Sunday afternoon service was held during our mission, at which H. G. Harward spoke to a large audience. At the close 12 adults took the pledge. A. J. TOMKINS, Sec.

CHELTENHAM.—The Band of Hope is now three years old, with 190 members, some 40 having joined during the Conference year. Since the new schoolroom was built, we have held our meetings there with great comfort. They are held the last Wednesday of every month. We have been greatly assisted by our city friends during the year, the Quartette Party providing one pleasant programme. LAWRIE WOFF, Sec.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.—We have to report a very successful year's work. Since last report 21 meetings have been held; average attendance, 45; signed the pledge, 38. Meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays. On January 26th we had a very successful picnic at Ashburton. Two public meetings have been held. J. H. MCKEAN, Sec.

WILLIAMSTOWN.—A Band of Hope has been formed, with Bro. Hopkins as president, J. H. OCOO, secretary, and a strong committee.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dear Friends Assembled,—
It is with unusual interest we are assembled together on this occasion. For several

years we have looked forward to this gathering, hoping and praying for much good and the Father's blessings. We rejoice with the General Conference in celebrating this Jubilee Year, of which one of its chief joys will be the meeting and greeting of fellow-workers from various parts of our country. We thrice welcome you to our city, our hearts, and to our homes. We hope the time spent with us will be both profitable and pleasant, filling the cup of memory with pleasant recollections of those working for the glory of God and the good of humanity. May you be blessed in coming, and we in receiving you, to a higher and nobler life. The Conference year just past has been mingled with joy and sorrow. Early in the year our beloved president was bereaved of him who gave her his heart's unstinted love. Our hearts went out to her in deepest sympathy. Many times was our sister borne in the presence of the Father on the wings of prayer by a loving sisterhood. Our sister's resignation was regretted by all. We all gladly welcome Sister Davies president for the new Conference year. May the Lord give her health, strength, and length of days for his service. We can not pass without a kindly mention of a great host who cannot be with us in person, but who are with us in a spiritual sense; we are grateful to them for their words of cheer. Looking backward over our seven years' work, we need not despise the day of small beginnings. We had prejudice to overcome, discouragements to meet, but over and above all we can rejoice in many blessings. We thank God for new workers and enlargement of work; there is so much to be done that no one need be idle. The sick are to be visited with words of cheer, the helpless to be helped; they need Christian women in their homes to show them the better way. More Dorcas workers are needed. Tabitha built a monument that will stand longer than any marble statue by ministering to the needy around her. The Sunday Schools are calling for more teachers and helpers. There are songs of praise to be sung, and prayers to be offered. How often we hear the message from Home and Foreign fields, "Brethren, pray for us." All through the New Testament we are enjoined to give for the gospel. By uniting the small consecrated offerings of the many into one great whole for Christ, the fields can be sown and sheaves gathered in.

Dear sisters, let us spend our whole natures with all its possibilities in the service of God. If we have ten talents, five, or two, let us consecrate them to God's service. If but one, don't let us bury that, but use it till it grows "brighter and brighter unto the perfect day." Christ is wholly dependent upon the lives of his children to manifest his glory in the world.

M. MASTON.

HOME MISSION REPORT.

Dear Sisters,—We are very pleased in this our Jubilee year, to be able to present a most encouraging report. The motto adopted at last Conference was—"1,000 souls for Christ, and £2,000 for Home Missions. From the year's statistics we are glad to state that the number of baptisms for the year is 1203.

The funds also reached the £2,000, including last year's credit balance. The total amount actually collected was £1,621. Of the 1,203 baptisms 429 were the result of the labors of the Home Missionaries. The sisters have collected £125 for the fund. This is an increase of £33 on last year. We must try for more systematic effort in the future. The total amount collected by the sisters during the past 17 years is £2,268, being an average of £133 per year. The highest year was in 1892, when £235 was collected. The lowest was in 1896, with £76. The tent work during the year has been a great success. Bro. Harward reports 236 baptisms, six formerly baptised and five restored; total through Tent Missions, 247. Sisters, this encouraging report should stimulate us to greater zeal and energy. I would like to suggest that collecting boxes be freely used in each church.

Meetings to stimulate an interest in Home Missions have been held at Lygon-street, Swanston-street, North Fitzroy, Williamstown, Doncaster and Newmarket. Three drawing room meetings have been held at North Fitzroy and 45 new subscribers added. At the meeting at Swanston-street 40 promised to pay 1d. per week.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of this Committee for their interest and help. They have attended and taken part at every meeting, reading the Scripture, leading in prayer, and giving short essays, all bearing on the need for the work. This has been a great help to the Superintendent. Our duty to our neighbors is forced upon us. Jesus gave the command—in the 13th chapter of Mark—"to love the Lord our God with all our strength, and our neighbor as ourselves." We that are Christians must show an interest in those who are not on the Lord's side and do our best to win them for Christ. Practical kindness and help must always be given. But nothing short of a conscientious effort to bring our neighbors to the enjoyment of the priceless gift of salvation can release us from our obligation to them. We must show the unselfish devotion to the good of others which makes the divine pattern of true life. God makes it possible for his children to live the life that will bring the greatest enjoyment now, and fit them for an inheritance among the saints. Again, we know, money invested in souls pays the largest possible interest on the investment. Let us then be very zealous that by our means and our personal dealings we may do our best to win souls for Christ.

L. PITTMAN, Supt.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S OPPORTUNITIES.

Church prosperity depends largely on wise efforts to win and train children and youths to faith and obedience to Christ. No one has such opportunities to do this as the Sunday School teacher. To teach children is a command from God. Abraham was a teacher and trainer of the young before he was a parent. Moses, speaking to the Jewish family, says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Children were given

an important and prominent place in the Jewish church. The little child Samuel could not have been more than six years old when he "ministered unto the Lord before Eli." David was not more than twelve when he was anointed to be king over all Israel. Daniel was a mere boy when he was selected among the children in whom was found no blemish, but refused to defile himself with the king's meat and wine. It was a little captive maid who sent the leper Naaman to be healed by the prophet of her childhood's home. The provision, too, for the training of the Jewish children religiously was most complete. The reading of the law was to be done in the presence of the whole congregation—men, women and children. The children attended the services every Sabbath day in the synagogue. These services consisted of public prayers, the reading and expounding of the Scriptures. There were other times that children could come and receive instruction in the divine law.

If the Jewish economy was a prophecy and type of the Christian dispensation, and if these things were written for our instruction, need we wonder that we see much of the method and forms of these services illustrated in the example of our Lord's ministry? Jesus acted as reader and teacher in the synagogue at Nazareth. Paul went into the synagogue at Antioch and Pisidia.

The church that gives the children and the young people the first care is on the sure road to prosperity. The Roman Catholics are an example in the prominence they give to children in the work of winning and training religiously. The wisest and most winsome priests devote themselves to the children. St. Francis said, "Give me the children till they are ten years of age and anybody can take them afterwards." The Sunday School teacher has a greater opportunity of ministering the divine truths which are to guide the life and shape the destiny of young hearts than the preacher from the public platform. Children's minds are more easily impressed than those of riper years. Often an impression is made upon a child's mind by story or song that will be a dominating ideal of a lifetime. We are told that Napoleon got the motive of his whole life before he was nine years of age by hearing from the Corsican sailors and shepherds the story of battle by land and by sea. "Now I lay me down to sleep," was the evening prayer of John Adams when he sat in the presidential chair of the United States.

The Sunday School teacher is "an epistle known and read" by his scholars. Hence the greatest responsibility that rests upon him is that of giving heed to his own character, of building himself up in the most holy faith. His calling should lead him to a close walk with God. When Paul said the apostles had been made ministers of the new covenant, he was so overwhelmed with the responsibility that he cried out, "Who is sufficient for these things?" So must everyone feel who reflects on all that is involved in ministering the divine truth to the young minds. After we have done our best in study we are still compelled to say, with the great apostle, "Our sufficiency is of God." Let our scholars see that we deem them worthy of respect, and recognise them whenever we

meet them. Not only should the Sunday School teacher heed this, but every Christian worker. A friendly smile or a word of greeting will prove a power in winning a child's heart. The Prince of Peace rebuked the disciples for ignoring those of whom he said, "Of such is my kingdom." I would not say one word against sending the gospel to distant lands, but don't let us spend our energies in sending the gospel to the heathen and ignore the boys and girls in front of our chapel doors. We are told to pray the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. Where are these laborers coming from? They will come from the Sunday School; and if they are not better fitted and prepared for the work than we are, we have not faithfully discharged our duties.

Bro. Superintendent, fellow-teacher, co-laborer in the Sunday School, do you fully realise that to you more than to anyone else is entrusted the future of the church. Be careful that you firmly fix in their young minds the unerring council of God's Word, that they may stand perfect and complete in him. Oh, teachers, may Jesus reign supreme in your hearts, that you may be equal to your responsibility and opportunities, which are as boundless as eternity.

MRS. M. MASTON.

GENERAL DORCAS REPORT.

The Dorcas Committee have much pleasure in presenting their report of this year's work. The rallies have been well attended by the few sisters who take a strong interest in Dorcas work, the average attendance at each Burwood Boys' rally being fourteen, and the rally for general work, twelve. For the Burwood Boys the meeting has been held on the first Wednesday in each month, in the lecture hall, Swanston-st., and the Committee decided to keep a record of the work done, recognising that "figures like facts are stubborn things," and the sisterhood will see that good work has been done. There have been 602 garments mended, 869 pairs of stockings darned, and through the Committee 133 garments have been given, 30 pairs of new stockings, with mending wool, 6 dozen flannelette for shirts, and three quilts. The Committee had also the pleasure of giving the Boys, numbering 32, a Christmas treat. The Dorcas Committee gratefully acknowledge the help of the Home Committee in arranging the sports, and for their kindly gifts in the way of prizes, and many other friends who, by their generous gifts, helped in the prize giving.

The general rally assembled always on the third Thursday in the same place. From this meeting clothing, both new and old, has been distributed by sisters who have told of needy cases; 547 garments have thus been given. Parcels have been sent to the relief of our drought-stricken centres to the care of well-known brethren. One parcel contained 252 new garments, 190 second-hand, and 2 quilts and a quantity of new material to make up. To save the feelings of all concerned, we suppress names, but in order to shew how keenly the recipients felt the kindness extended to them, we give a quotation from one of the letters received:—

"I have two children, aged 13 and 11;

was sending them down country to pick fruit, and was striving to get what was barely needed. On the way to the station my husband met me with a parcel, and before I got home I had opened it. It was such a surprise. I cannot tell you how thankful I was; I did know whether to laugh or cry, to get the very things I most needed. I am so so thankful, and will always remember the parcel that came just in time; what was over for my own need, I gave to others round, whose wants were more pressing. Everything was so useful, and accepted with gratitude."

Another parcel was sent on in February, containing 51 garments and 19 pairs of stockings—material to the value of £5/15/-, the Committee judging it wise not to wait for rallies, feeling convinced that the mothers would quickly make up clothes if they had the material. A great encouragement to the Committee was that one Dorcas Society was reorganised and at work again through those gifts.

Moneys received from lecture given by Mr. A. M. Ludbrook, collections and gifts from individuals, amount to £14/19/-, all of which was spent in material, except £2/15/- given in cash to needy cases. We have also been the thankful recipients of many a good parcel of material. We desire to thank all the donors and our Brother Ludbrook for his fine lecture, and the officers of Swanston-st. for the lecture hall, given at all times free of charge.

It is earnestly recommended to the incoming Committee to continue these rallies. They have been tried for three years now, and we consider they have worked well; 2099 garments have passed through the Committee's hands in the year, and that the expenses all round only amount 3/9.

The Committee regret that so few visits have been paid to the Dorcas Societies in connection with the churches; they have paid seven, but gratefully acknowledge the kind reception they received.

To all the sisters who so lovingly helped, they render grateful thanks.

E. McLELLAN, Sept.

DORCAS SOCIETIES.

COLLINGWOOD held 21 meetings; average attendance, 7; amount of collections and donations received, £5/9/10; expenditure, £5/1/7; balance, 8/3. They made and renovated 119 garments, some of which were sold, and with 10/- from the Sunday School sent Sister Thompson £2 for a Christmas treat for her school children in India. Miss Thompson wrote expressing her pleasure, and said she was able to do more good with the money than with the usual articles sent. A parcel of clothing was sent to Burwood Boys' Home.

CHELTENHAM.—Meetings held fortnightly. Average attendance, 7; 33 articles given to Burwood Boys' Home, 18 to Alfred Hospital, 18 to Miss Young, of the City Mission, and 5 to a deserving local case. Several parcels of secondhand clothing distributed.

BALLARAT.—Meetings during past year, 24; average attendance, 6; 130 garments made and given away, also 5 parcels of clothing, wood, coal, boots and groceries. Donations received, £4/15/-; collection taken at meetings, £5/5/2; balance in hand, 14/6.

PAHRAN.—An average attendance at meetings of 6; 80 garments have been made and given away, some calico, and one dozen men's shirts for the Homœopathic Hospital. Two sisters in Pahrar report meeting together, finding their own material and making up 75 garments, and distributing same.

SWANSTON-ST.—Meetings held twice a month; average attendance 12; have made and distributed 206 garments; have also sent a parcel containing 43 articles of apparel to one of the drought-stricken centres. Contributions have been £12/4/2; £11/4/4 has been expended in material. Sisters unable to attend through want of time have kindly sent material and money.

NORTH MELBOURNE meet fortnightly in the chapel vestry, and have an average attendance of 8. The following have provided material and clothing:—Sisters Barrett, Bean, Fordham, Gill, Lennie, Orange, Powell, S. Thompson and Bro. Skinner. Donated, £1/10/3; goods sold, 13/6; balance in hand, 8/1. 21 garments have been distributed to the needy, and 6 articles given to the Burwood Boys' Home, and in many other ways the sisters have contributed to the wants of the suffering.

LYCON-ST. reports a more successful year than previous one. Membership, 30; average attendance, 13. Distributed to the needy, 67 garments; donated to deserving cases, £11/1/- In addition we held a sale of work, made and contributed by sisters only, by which, after deducting expenses, we were enabled to donate to the officers of the church the sum of £50. No charge for admission is ever made to the sale of work. Sister Thurgood visited us, and gave a brief but interesting talk on the work done by the sisters in connection with the church at Pittsburgh. Sisters Smith and Adams, from Hobart, also visited us, and Sister Andrews, from Sydney. We feel greatly encouraged and strengthened by the success of last year's work, and sincerely pray that God will bless our efforts in the future.

BRIGHTON held 12 meetings during the year; average attendance, 5. They sent two parcels of clothing to the Central Committee and donated £1/10/- to the Mallee Food. A number of garments have also been distributed locally.

ASCOT VALE held 22 meetings during the year; average attendance, 5; members on roll, 9. Garments made and given away, 25. Helped 4 poor persons with money, sent a parcel to the Rescue Home and also to the Burwood Boys' Home, and made three baptismal gowns for the church.

ST. KILDA has not been idle during the year. They have made 30 garments and renovated many others, and given them to those in need.

NORTH RICHMOND.—During the year 22 meetings were held; average attendance, 7. A number of new garments have been made and distributed, and some garments repaired and given away. Some deserving cases have also been supplied with groceries and fuel.

In addition to the foregoing reports for Victoria, we have also received the following from—

HOBART.—Up to November 4th 13 meet-

ings were held, when, owing to much sickness, the class went into recess; average attendance, 10. Meetings were resumed on January 27th, 1903, over 20 being present, when Sister Brown, president, welcomed Bro. and sister Collins, from Melbourne. The sick have been visited, and clothing and food sent to those in need. Expenses, £7/9/3; takings, £12/6/10; balance in hand, £4/17/7.

We have also received a report from Sister Ewers, of W.A., in which she states—

FREMANTLE has a Dorcas Class which meets weekly. Sister Pallot is president, and they are doing a good work.

PERTH.—A Dorcas Class was started about six months ago. Five sisters attended the first meeting, and now there are ten on the roll; average attendance, eight. Some clothing has been given to needy cases, and baptismal garments have been made.

BOULDER has a Dorcas Class which is now in recess, waiting the return of Sister Banks.

MISSION BANDS.

DONCASTER have held eight meetings since last report. We have 42 members. During the year we had visits from Bro. Morro and Bro. Ludbrook. Very interesting letters were received from India—one from Bro. Shah and two from Miss Thompson. We collected £12/10/- and sent it to the F.M. Treasurer.

F. M. TAINTON.

MALVERN.—We have 25 members; 11 meetings held during the year; average attendance, 13. Letters have been written to all our missionaries, and several letters have been received from them, also the paper *White unto Harvest* from Bro. Strutton. At the anniversary meeting Bren. Mahon and Swain spoke. £5 has been collected during year, of which £4 has been sent to the F.M. Committee.

J. E. HUNTSMAN, Pres.

NORTH MELBOURNE (Y.P.S.C.E., Missionary Committee) hold a monthly prayer and devotional meeting, to which they invite everybody who is interested in the work. A missionary box is on the table at every Endeavor meeting, and £5 was collected last year. They are trying to form a missionary library, and have received a number of magazines. A missionary night is held every three months. They also have a prayer band, praying especially for those who are training for Foreign Missions.

S. THOMPSON, Convener.

FITZROY (Y.P.S.C.E. Missionary Committee) meet once a month to ask God's blessing upon all those engaged in missionary work. During the year we have sent £5 for the support of an orphan in India, and still have a little in hand for the current months. Several members of our society are workers in the Chinese Mission, Lygon-street.

K. HAMMOND, Convener.

MISS THOMPSON'S BIBLEWOMAN.

It may not be generally known that Miss Thompson's Biblewoman, Sarubai, is supported by 20 sisters in 6 different churches. Four additional names have been secured this year. The sisters continue to take a good interest in this work, as is shown by the fact that they have enough money in hand to pay twelve months salary in advance,

as well as provide for the keep of an orphan boy. Several interesting letters have been received from Miss Thompson during the year, telling of the good work being done in Hurda and the surrounding villages. A letter from Sarubai, beautifully written in her own language, and translated by Mary Thompson, was much appreciated by the sisters.

ELIZA ZELIUS.

HON. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Beloved Sisters,—Shall we take for our thought this evening—"The King's daughter is all glorious within."—Psalm 45: 13.

It is very much to the point this year to speak of the King's daughters, in view of our monarchical form of government. Are we ignorant that all we who have been born into the kingdom are children, aye, daughters of the King of kings and Lord of lords?

Let us imagine that each one of us has been born in a palace and brought up as princesses of the blood royal. We would then have been taught in all the arts and accomplishments by the very best teachers that the kingdom could afford. With such a mother teacher as Queen Victoria, who trained her daughters in all the humble domestic duties of the home, so we would have been trained likewise. How to dress suitably to our station in private and public would have been studied thoroughly. In physical culture too—that brings with it that erect, graceful, and princely carriage of the body that marks the advantages of a royal home. We would have had the best training also in the gymnasium, and in the riding school.

Now, as we are daughters of the King, what better and more accomplished heavenly Teacher could we have than Christ himself, who was palace born and palace bred. In the palace temple—the church—we have learned to wait upon our God, and in the schools of the patriarchs, princes, prophets and apostles we have had a most superior education.

Our royal robes, since we are enrobed in Christ at our baptism (as described in 2 Col.), are the heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another and forgiving each other, even as the Lord forgave us; so also do ye, and around all these things put on the golden girdle of love, which is the circlet of perfectness. They that walk with Christ have a Christ-carriage, that princely bearing, the outcome of princely companionship.

When the race of Edward VII. shall have been long forgotten, the royal family of our God shall live and rule in the palace-home of eternity.

In view of all this, for highest earthly splendor and position are but as shadows to the substance of the royalty of Christ, what manner of women ought we to be in society, in the home, in the church, this twentieth century?—In this jubilee year of our people?

"The King's daughter is all glorious within." Such inner and innermost sweetness, such tenderness, such loveliness, such charm of spirit and speech, such noble courage, the outcome of him whom not having seen we passionately love with all our royal

hearts! Only such regal women can dare and do the King's business. The cottage home, like the "lily of the field," may have more royal spiritual splendor than Solomon's architectural glory or many an European palace.

From the glory-land of such beautiful spiritual imagery, let us descend the mount, enwrapped in the halo of the glory, like Moses, and mingle with the multitude, busy with the interest and cares of the everyday life.

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

For over sixteen years the Executive meeting of the Sisters' Conference has been the centre of womanly activity in Victoria, the radii of which have been the various meetings—evangelistic, missionary and benevolent—that have sought to enlist every sister in the church within their reach to a more aggressive work for Christ and humanity. Hence, this Executive gathering has been, and should be, a model meeting, so that those who come together for counsel may go forth to other meetings to cheer, instruct and strengthen those whom they organise or develop. The leader of such a meeting (and may there be a miniature meeting in every church) should be very prayerfully prepared for such a gathering of workers. She comes to them from a sweet communion with Christ and with a heart filled with a message from God's Word, with a prayer that will touch the chords of the heart of every worker present, and with a thought that will prove a beautiful stimulus and a benediction to all, enabling them to re-echo it in other meetings through the coming month. Surely such a leader will quicken the spiritual life of the Executive, thus awakening love, gratitude and an exalted idea of their privileges and opportunities, seeing their duties merge into delights as daughters of the King. Every superintendent as a result will go back to the throne-room of prayer in her home, and plead with the King, like Esther of old, for special blessings upon her sphere of work, to meet the many difficulties and discouragements of her department. Such workers would thereby be brought so in touch with the King by their walk with and talk to him that their whole lives and those whom they meet may have a more realising sense of the world's needs, and a higher appreciation of their work as King's daughters. Again, the leader of these leaders will find herself uttering a three-fold prayer before she comes to that important meeting—first, that she may have the Spirit's guidance, that she may be filled with all the fruit of his nature; second, for his going before her to prepare the hearts of all present to receive her simple message; third, for his remaining afterwards to bless and impress the whole meeting, that it may bring forth fruit abundantly. We can readily see how the workers in all departments will go forth to stimulate hundreds, yea, thousands of others to a closer walk with, and a richer work for, their King. Shall we have this year

A JUBILEE MOTTO.

Psalm 45: 13, "The King's daughter is all glorious within." What a grandly beautiful thing it is to be "right in the sight of our King." Let this be the special thought in

the hands of all our women. Queens of the inner golden glory—for the more Godlike we are within the more Christlike we shall be without. But if so blessed are our dear sisters of the cities by such a centre of holy living, and have so many avenues for the development of spiritual activities, it comes to us how we may share these blessings with our less favored daughters of the King in our country districts, that they too may be "all glorious within"! How may we enlist the sisters of every church in Australasia along spiritual, intellectual, social and missionary lines?

Why not organise a monthly missionary meeting in every church, aided by a suggested monthly programme prepared by a programme committee of this Executive, the carrying out of which would undoubtedly encourage the spiritual life, develop latent intellectual talent, and more heartily enlist our sisters in benevolent and missionary work at home and abroad.

We know it is information that brings inspiration, which leads to realisation. Now how many of us know about our New Zealand work among the Maoris? Who can tell of the locality and workers, also the difficulties, of our Kanaka Mission? What is our Sister Rose Tonkin doing in China? Where is Bro. Percy Davey located in Japan? What great help have Bro. and Sister Stubbin been to the mission stations in India? Who was our first foreign missionary? Where is Bro. Strutton's field of labor? How many churches have we in South Africa? What results have we from our Victorian tent mission and what other States have a similar work? Do we all know what is being done among the fallen? What about orphan boys and first offenders? Who of our people are giving girls a higher education like that which was begun by Sister Carr years ago? And if so, who of our girls are attending? Who can tell of the trials of the home missionaries in summer's heat and winter's waters as they travel from town to town in circuit? What are we doing amongst the

Chinese in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide? Do we know that a million a month are dying in China without Christ? Does that touch the nerve that leads to the pulse of self-denial and self-sacrifice?

Are we aware that the other churches have awakened to the fact that we are an evangelistic people? Let them learn that we are an intensely evangelistic people, and then they will begin to study "our plea," so as to find the source of our evangelistic emphasis.

What part are we going to have as Australians in the spiritual commerce and merchandising of Christ's wealth in the great awakening of Japan—that young England of the Asiatic East? The Japanese are almost more English than the English, and more American than the Americans, in their great strides in almost all the avenues of educational and industrial progress.

Such a monthly missionary meeting would take us through a course of select readings in the spiritual, mental, moral and industrial history so to speak, not only of foreign lands, but also our own home fields, the foundation land of our missionary movements beatheward.

Let this twentieth century find the King's daughters taking easy steps up the silver stairway of literature, leading to the golden palace of information of our own and the world's great needs. So will we realise in all its God-meant fullness that thought, "The King's daughters are all glorious within."

Women of God, the hour has come; arise in Jesus' name,
Thy strength is in his power alone, all other help is vain.
God's footsteps now are on the sea, the isles stretch forth their hands,
The Sun of Righteousness shines forth upon the distant lands.

Women of God, be swift to go, the doors are open wide;
The times are full of promises, 'tis flowing of the tide.
Sail out upon the deep broad sea, and let thy heart be brave,
A mighty work is waiting—a dying world to save.

CHARACTER BUILDING.

MRS. J. E. BROWN.

Essay read at the Victorian Sisters' Conference.

From the time that I was told I was to write the essay for this Conference I sought for a subject. In many a spare thinking moment I pondered and pondered what I should write upon, but no subject suggested itself. Several asked me if I had chosen my subject yet and I answered "No! I can't make up my mind, but I am hoping for an inspiration." Little did I think how that inspiration was to come! It was on the night of the day on which our hearts were all heavy and sorrowful—heavy and sorrowful because on that day had been laid to rest a dear friend who had been called from our midst—Mr. John A. Davies. That night I thought over the events of that sad memorial day (25th May), and finally I thought of the comforting sermon Mr. G. T. Walden had preached, and as I thought over all he had said about the different elements which

formed the character of that much esteemed and good man, there flashed into my mind—*Essay on Character Building.*

First let us examine what character is. It is defined as "a mark cut on any thing"; "peculiar qualities in a person—good or bad"; "the qualities supposed to be impressed on a person by his post or office."

The word "character" is derived from the Greek *charakter*, an engraved or stamped mark, from *charassein*, to furrow, scratch, engrave—hence the first definition given, "a mark cut on anything." And we all know that it is the face upon which our character is cut. We see some faces which are full of character; others which show none at all; some which reveal noble victory in the battle of life; others which reveal the very opposite. Let it be our aim to develop a face indicative of a noble mind.

And how are we to achieve this? The third definition given is that "character is the qualities supposed to be impressed on a person by his post or office." So out of our daily work we may find the materials for building up our character.

"All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time,
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

"Nothing useless is or low;
Each thing in its place is best;
And what seems but idle show,
Strengthens and supports the rest.

"For the structure which we raise,
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

"Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen."

Mr. Waldean said that Mr. Davies' life had been a success, and he thought that the reason was due to these elements in his character—kind-heartedness, energy, earnestness and religion.

Faber has said that "kindness is our imitation of Providence." Christ said—"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." We have the perfect copy set before us, even God the Father, and it should be our earnest endeavor that each day should find us a little nearer that perfect copy. So if to be kind is to imitate Providence, let us be kind in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds. For some it is easy to be kind; their lives are fallen unto them in pleasant places; they have a goodly heritage; they know nothing of the cares of life. Let such lose no opportunity of showing kindness. When they least expect it, they may be shedding a gleam of light upon some poor, darkened life.

For others it is much harder to be kind. The struggle for daily bread; the worries of business, or the cares of a family, often tend to make people hard rather than kind, but it is here that the development of character comes in. Bacon says that "adversity doth best discover virtue," and Browning says—

"Then welcome each rebuff,
That turns earth's smoothness rough
Each thing that bids nor sit, nor stand, but go;
Be our joys three parts pain,
Strive, and hold cheap the strain,
Learn, nor account the pang,
Dare, never grudge the throe."

So even our troubles will be blessings to us if we allow our better nature—the God within us—to predominate. Then, when the opportunity to do a kind deed or to speak a kind word arises, we shall take it, and the oftener we practise it the easier it will become, and kindness will be one of the characteristics written upon our faces. Thus, too, shall we be cultivating the heart side of our character.

Energy and earnestness really go hand in hand. If a man is in earnest about anything he will be energetic about it too. Several well-known proverbs illustrate very well

these two elements—"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might"; "No gains without pains"; "If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well." "Thorough" should be our motto in everything. Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, and it is these little things about which we should be in earnest, and into which we should throw all our energy.

We may have great ideas about what we should like to do and what we intend to do should the opportunity ever arise, but as has been well said—"the best teacher of duties that still lie dim to us, is the practise of those we see and have at hand."

"Why, you have done nothing to this statue since I was here months ago," said a friend to Michael Angelo as he stood in the great sculptor's studio and looked at a marble figure before him. "O yes," replied the incomparable genius, "I have removed the blemish from that limb, softened that expression, given a gentler look to the eye, and carried it forward some steps towards completion." "But these are but trifles," said the visitor. "Yes," replied the matchless sculptor, "but trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

So, if our work is to sweep and to dust; if it is to sew; if it is to teach; if it is to serve in a shop; whatever it may be, let us do it with ALL our might, earnestly, energetically, faithfully, as in the sight of God.

And the same should apply to any church work we may take up. Don't let us be enthusiastic and energetic for a little while until the newness wears off, but let us regard it as much a duty as our daily work, and perform it just as faithfully. If our work is in the choir, or in the Sunday School, or in the Endeavor meeting, let us show that we are in earnest about that work by never being absent except unavoidably, and by doing all we can to make that particular work a success. We hear it preached often that baptism is for the remission of sins. Christ was baptised, but he had no sin. Then of what was his baptism symbolic? I give the answer which I heard a veteran in God's service—one of those rare-souled men that one sometimes meets—give: that Christ's baptism was symbolic of "over head and ears" devotion to his Heavenly Father. And what a sublime thought for us; that we should be "over head and ears" devoted to the service of God. Then, indeed, will the elements **EARNESTNESS** and **ENERGY** stand out prominently in our character.

I think religion is the most important element in character-building, because just as the ten commandments which God gave to Moses are all contained in the two which Christ gave to the scribe—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"—so the elements I have touched upon and all the other elements which go to build up character will be developed in those who make true religion an important factor in their lives. Many non-religious people say that they can live as pure and as upright lives as the religious ones. That may be; but I am convinced that in a time of great temptation the one saying "I will overcome it" is not nearly so likely to succeed as he who says "God helping

me I will overcome it." If man could only lose a little of his conceit and acknowledge that he can do nothing of himself, but that with God all things are possible to him, there would not be the same despair that often assails the sorely-tempted, nor would there be the feeling that it is of no use trying to be better.

Religion, and by religion I mean the daily striving towards the higher life which the who loves his Saviour will always have—this religion makes a man very upright in all his dealings with other men, faithful in his duties, kindly, forbearing and longsuffering towards those not so strong as himself, and helps him to exercise the necessary self-control over his passions. How many instances we can think of in our own experience, of men who carry their religion into their everyday life, and of the esteem in which they are held. Young men, as a rule I am sorry to say, seem to think that to be religious is to be unmanly. To my mind, a man is most manly when he is striving to be a true follower of Christ. He does not need to lay aside any manly sports or occupations, but by taking his religion into them he will elevate and ennoble them.

Years ago I read a book whose title I have forgotten, but its object was to inspire right living, and rules were suggested. The rule which impressed me most and about the only one I remember said that no day should pass without some moments of it being spent in thinking about eternity. In this age of rush and turmoil we are apt to neglect the "things that are more excellent," forgetting that these are the eternal, and that what we worry over most are but for a moment, compared with eternity. Is it not but too true that "for a cap and bells our lives we pay," that "bubbles we buy with a whole soul's asking," and that we do not half appreciate the "heaven which alone is given away," the "God who alone may be had for the asking"? It would be a great help to the religious side of our character were we to give some serious thought each day to the higher life, and we should welcome each first day of the week, as a time when we can be brought more and more into touch with heaven and with the God of heaven.

Having glanced at these four of the elements in character let us see how we may be helped in the building. Mr. Johnston in a sermon on "Young Men Like Jabez" said, "Character building is largely the result of imitation," and "The will is the architect in the building of character." This architect should have a perfect model given it from which to copy, and as the model must be used as long as the structure is building, and as the building of our character is a life-long process, it follows that the model should be studied very closely and continually. That model is found in the Bible in the life of Christ, and it will only be by keeping Christ's character always before us that we may hope to become like him. When writing in copy-books children have a great tendency to copy the top line—the perfect copy—first, and afterwards to copy their own line. The result is often disastrous; so they are constantly reminded to watch the top line, the perfect copy, and that then their lines will become better instead of worse. So should it

be with us. We should watch our top line, our perfect copy, even Christ Jesus, and by imitating him we shall become more like him.

And the Bible should be studied not only for the example of noble living that it gives, but because of its value as a means of cultivating the mind.

The study of all good literature does that, and the Bible stands first in the ranks of literature. All standard authors study the Bible closely to gain a good style. A new addition has been published lately, and "one valuable feature from a literary point of view is the list of references in each volume, to the passages in our great writers from the time of Shakespeare and Spenser down to the present day, which have been clearly influenced by some portion of the text in each particular volume under notice."

Reviewing this "Temple" edition, the editor of one of our Melbourne papers says—"The man in the street does not, as a rule, recognise the great literary treasures contained in the Bible, nor does he appraise at its true value the purity and dignity of the English language as evinced in the Authorised Version. Many of our great orators and writers have been largely indebted to the Bible for the lucidity and power of their diction. No better aid to the obtaining of a free and telling command of pure English can be recommended to the youthful student than a thorough acquaintance with the text of our English Version."

And I am afraid that we who profess to love Christ do not half appreciate the treasure we have in the Bible for mind cultivation.

What a fine exhortation to praise God Isaiah gives us—"Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein, the isles and the inhabitants thereof. Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit; let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands." This is only one among the myriads of equally fine passages with which the Bible teems.

The study of the works of such authors as Shakespeare, Wordsworth and Longfellow, Thackeray, Dickens, Hawthorne and Wendell Holmes, is also a pleasant way of cultivating the mind.

But to build our character well not only must heart and mind be cultivated, but conscience also. Some weeks ago the *Age* had a leading article on good manners, in which occurred these words—"It would be of no use to teach good manners in our schools unless we inculcate, first of all, those nobler moral principles which underlie all true politeness. We may educate the intellect of the young, but unless we can develop their moral faculties and make them feel that

* Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,
These three alone lead life to sovereign power."

we shall be only raising a race in whom the instincts of our lower nature have been sharpened by a one-sided system of tuition, and from whom, as men and women, we can never expect 'the unbought grace of life,' which should sweeten, refine, elevate, and purify our social intercourse. We must in-

vigorate morality before we can hope to improve our manners." And if we are to invigorate morality it must be by cultivating the conscience side of our character. Paul's conscience must have been very highly cultivated. In his letter to Timothy he says—"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." And yet, who would not be like Paul? Next to Christ's, his life stands out as the most to be admired. But I suppose he had such a high ideal for his conscience that he considered as sin what another man would consider no sin, and so he called himself the chief of sinners. My thought may be wrong, but it can never be wrong to have a high ideal as a guide for conscience.

Thus then, to build our character well, we should keep before our architect, the will, Christ's life for imitation, and we should cultivate our heart, our mind, and our conscience. I am sure no one would think of questioning the necessity for this building up of character. Surely the tendency of human nature is to become better. Ruskin says—"And my wonder, even when things are at their worst, is always at the height which this human nature can attain"; and Watson says—

"Though dark, O God, thy course and track,
I think thou must at least have meant
That nought which lives should wholly lack
The things that are more excellent."

So that we need just glance at two reasons why we should be so particular about this building. In the first place we have divine command. Christ tells us to be perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect. Peter tells us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and he also says—"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

Now the Greek word which is translated "virtue" is *arete*, and it has other meanings, one being "excellence of character" or "force of character," so that the latter part of this verse might be read, "him that called us to glory and excellence of character." And Paul says, "Let every man take heed how he buildeth." Then there is no doubt that the better our character is developed here, the better fitted we shall be for the life beyond. I shall close with a quotation from "Our Life After Death," by Mr. Arthur Chambers, which bears upon this reason why we should build up our character well. His idea is that there are different spheres of experience in the *hades* life, and he says:—

"The bearing of this deduction will impress upon us as no other consideration will, the vast importance of cultivating in this life our character and spirit. It will lead us Christians to do what Paul, with his knowledge of the intermediate life, urged that we should do—'work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.' It will be impossible with this truth in view to be careless as to the cultivation of character. Knowing the intimate connection which exists between our character here and our experiences hereafter, we shall

not live slipshod Christian lives, in the hope that somehow or another all will come right at the moment of death. And yet thousands who are not insensible to Christ's gospel are so living. Why is it that so many Christians never seem to grow in grace? Why is there so little effort to rid themselves of defects in character? Why after thirty years of Christian instruction do they appear no nearer are such things as unlovely Christians, who, in spite of their church-going and orthodoxy, are cold, unsympathetic, selfish, or cross-tempered? Is it not that, intermingled with their belief, there is an idea that, after all, the cultivation of character during the earth-life is not a matter of paramount concern; that so long as certain doctrines be held, and certain religious ordinances observed, all will be right at the last; that as soon as they step out of this world there will be a wonderful moral transformation, and in an instant, apart from any effort of theirs, they will become all that they sincerely desire to become.

"Thousands of Christian people are positively indifferent about the formation of character because they do not realise that God means what he says when he states that 'whatsoever a man soweth, THAT shall he also reap.'

"Just as we dare not be neglectful of our education in youth, because our position in later years will be affected thereby, so the cultivation of our moral and spiritual nature will be a task to which we shall devote ourselves, for the reason that we shall know that the neglect of it may involve a handicapping of ourselves in the life to come.

"Then human existence will assume a greater responsibility and significance; new incentive will be given to the struggle after holiness, and a greater importance will attach itself to even the thoughts, looks and words as well as the actions of our everyday life.

"Then our chief concern will be so to live that when 'the garish lights' of earth shall wax dim and go out, we may enter into such a sphere of the unseen life as to pass easily on unto perfection."

VICTORIAN JUBILEE CONFERENCE.

(Continued.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEMONSTRATION.

On Thursday evening in the Melbourne Town Hall a grand climax to the magnificent series of Jubilee Conference meetings was reached. To engage such a large hall, one of the largest and most splendid in our Australian Commonwealth, seemed to many a large undertaking, and fears were expressed as to our ability to fill such an auditorium. The meeting was to start at 8 o'clock, but at an hour before the audience nearly filled the place, and twenty minutes later the officials closed the doors and refused to allow further admissions, much to the dismay and disappointment of several hundreds still waiting to come in. Many of our interstate visitors

were unfortunately left out. The number inside the hall would probably be 4000. This was the Sunday School night. As Bro. Walden said in his speech we had reserved the largest meeting for the "little men and little women" in connection with our churches. The choir, consisting of Sunday School children, assisted by the different church choirs, occupied the large gallery and platform, also part of the balcony. The ladies were all arrayed in white dresses, while the men were dressed in their best, and when they stood to sing presented a splendid spectacle. The choir numbered some 1200 voices, and had been specially trained for some months past by Bro. Nat Haddow, assisted by Sister Dickens as pianist, who deserve all credit for the efficiency reached by the singers and the great success attending the gathering. The main feature was, of course, the chorus singing of the choir, who rendered several choice hymns in excellent style. Every piece was sung without a noticeable mistake, and the effect of such a number of voices was very fine. The other items on the programme were also of high excellence. Bro. Henry Wright, of W.A., who has rendered conspicuous service in our Conference gatherings by his splendid singing, was heard to great advantage in two pieces, "For the Children's Sake," and "If With All Your Hearts," the latter as an encore. Bro. John Hindle gave a Biblical Recital, "The Prodigal Son," taken from the narrative in Luke's gospel, and his magnificent voice and splendid rendering did full justice to his selection. Sister Ethel Benson and Sister Nellie McClelland each sang with great acceptance to the audience. Miss Benson rendered "Hear Ye, Israel," and being recalled, sang "There is a Green Hill." Mrs. McClelland sang "I Will Extol Thee," and in response to a hearty encore gave, by special request, "Vital Spark," which was splendidly sung. The Lygon-street Quartette Party—Misses Allen and McDonald and Messrs. Nat Haddow and H. Barnden—contributed two quartettes, "Come Where the Lilies Bloom" and "We're Almost Home," which were well sung and as much appreciated by the audience. After each piece they were recalled, and responded with other selections. About forty of the students of the Bible College, trained by Bro. Johnston, gave a concerted recitation, "The Triumphal Entry." This was quite a success, the students acquitting themselves with credit, and showing very careful preparation. The only address on the programme was delivered by Bro. Geo. T. Walden, of Sydney, who chose for his theme, "A Little Child Shall Lead Them," and successfully gained the attention of old and young. Bro. Walden illustrated each point by very appropriate and telling anecdotes, and amply sustained his high reputation with his deliverance in Melbourne City's great Town Hall. The immense gathering and successful termination to a great effort will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be present. All concerned in the preparation are worthy of the highest praise. Bro. Gole, the secretary of the Sunday School Union, did a large amount of rallying work, and gave much attention to

details of arrangement which are not apparent but contribute largely to success. Bro. C. W. Mitchell, the vice-president, performed his duties as chairman of the great meeting with credit. All of the assistants who acted as ushers and otherwise helped deserve appreciative notice. In short, a splendid example was shown of grand success attending a large co-operative effort on the part of the Sunday Schools attached to the churches of Christ in Melbourne and suburbs.

TEMPERANCE NIGHT.

This was the first big night of the Conference, and some anxiety was experienced lest the attendance should not be sufficiently large to make the Masonic Hall look fairly full. All doubts, however, were speedily dispelled, for as early as 7 o'clock several hundreds of persons were present, and the great building was soon afterwards filled to the doors; so much so, that the Committee deemed it advisable to begin the meeting before the appointed time.

Alfred Mills, the President of the Temperance Committee, presided. A splendid musical programme was presented, in which the following took part:—Mrs. Roy Thompson, Miss Ethel Benson, Ernest Watson, the Lygon-street Quartette Party, and the male chorus of 20 voices. The singing was a splendid treat, and was much enjoyed by the vast audience, the Interstate visitors receiving their first impressions of our singers with demonstrations of the utmost pleasure.

The addresses were of a very high order, the medical, political and moral aspects of the liquor traffic being ably dealt with by Dr. James Cook, Senator Barrett and Henry Mahon respectively.

A strong sentiment on the need of Prohibition was manifest in each of the speeches. It is our intention to publish them, and being, as they are, the results of much study by these three brethren, who are experts in their several professions, they should form a valuable addition to modern information on this subject. A collection was taken up for the Committee's work, and amounted to £10/12/5.

NAMES OF INTERSTATE VISITORS AT THE JUBILEE CONFERENCE.

TASMANIA.

Miss M. Bradley	T. Cope
Mrs. G. Brown	W. R. C. Jarvis
Miss E. Adcock	G. O. Smith
Mrs. H. C. Rodd	Mrs. G. O. Smith
Miss J. Brown	

WEST AUSTRALIA.

J. Pallot	H. J. Banks
G. Payne	Mrs. H. J. Banks
A. Lucraft	Mrs. Somerville
Mrs. Lucraft	Sam. Thomson
Mr. Smythe	Mrs. Sam. Thomson
Mrs. Smythe	Mr. Maloney
Albany Bell	Mrs. Wardle
Mrs. Bell	Henry Wright
Miss L. Clark	Mrs. Henry Wright
Miss Meyer	D. M. Wilson
Mrs. Rhodes	L. Owen
Mrs. Matthews	C. Brough
Miss Ilingworth	Mrs. W. M. Bennett
Mrs. Pond	A. Johnson
Mrs. Lewis	Mrs. Johnson

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

T. J. Gore	Mrs. Goldsworthy
A. C. Rankine	W. T. S. Harris
Mrs. Rankine	Mrs. Harris
Mrs. R. Forsyth	Mr. Easom
Wm. Brooker	Wren J. Grinstead
Mrs. Wm. Brooker	Mrs. Grinstead
D. Battersby	T. Johnson
Mrs. Battersby	Mrs. Johnson
Percy Pittman	L. H. Crosby
Mrs. Percy Pittman	R. Harkness
Mrs. Downs	John Verco junior
Miss Downs	Mr. Follett
Arthur Downs	Miss Follett
Mrs. Haverland	Miss A. Follett
Miss Eismann	Miss Shill
T. H. Brooker, M.L.A.	Mrs. Cutt
Dr. Sid. Verco	Mr. W. Aird
Mrs. S. Weir	Miss Cleveland
Mr. Cully	Mr. Cleveland
Miss Tonkin	R. Harkness junior

NEW SOUTH WALES.

T. Bagley	J. Hindle
Mrs. Bagley senior	Mrs. J. Hindle
Mrs. Shearston	E. Taylor
G. P. Jones, J.P.	P. A. Dickson
L. A. Williams	R. Leck
Mrs. L. A. Williams	Mrs. Elliot
W. C. Williams	Miss Isie Elliot
Mrs. W. C. Williams	Mrs. Morrison
Mr. Jones	Miss Nellie Morrison
Mrs. Jones	Sep. Triglone
Mrs. Rossell	Percy Dixon
Charles Johnson	Mrs. Grainger
Mrs. Charles Johnson	A. Morris
W. H. Wright	Mrs. Morris
John Kingsbury	Jos. Stimson
Miss Ettie Kingsbury	Mrs. Jos. Stimson
Miss Minnie McAuley	T. Beer
Alf. Barlett	S. O. Gole
A. H. Webber	D. R. Hall, M.L.A.
Mrs. Andrews senior	Mrs. Ashwood
Miss Annie Andrews	Miss May Ashwood
C. A. Rofe	Miss Queenie Ashwood
Geo. T. Walden	Miss Alma Ashwood
	Miss B. MacPherson

From The Field.

The field is the world.—Matt. 13: 38.

Victoria.

SWANSTON-ST.—On Conference Sunday we had a specially large meeting, at which many of our interstate visitors were present, amongst whom we were glad to welcome Bro. Gore and Walden. Bro. Walden addressed the church on "The Badge of Discipleship," a topic most appropriate to the occasion. Last Lord's day we again had a large assembly. Bro. Rankine, of Norwood, S.A., presided, and Bro. Lucraft, of Fremantle, W.A., exhorted. Amongst our visitors were Sisters Rankine and Weir, of Norwood, S.A., Sister Lucraft, of Fremantle, W.A., Dr. Sydney Verco, of Unley, S.A., and many others. We were delighted to have fellowship with all our visitors, and shall long remember our pleasant association during our great Jubilee Conference time.

April 20.

R.L.

CROYDON.—Our Bro. Parslow has been with us for several Lord's days, exhorting in the mornings and preaching in the afternoons. We are glad to report that the church has been aroused and outside interest

awakened, also two confessions on April 12th and one to-day.

April 19.

A. G. CHIFFERFIELD.

SWANSTON-ST.—It is very pleasing and encouraging to know that the attendance at our chapel is rapidly increasing. Last Sunday we had a record school, 123 scholars and teachers being present. We also had the pleasure of having Bren Brooker of Adelaide, and A. Lucraft of W.A., with us. At the close of the school, the superintendent (Bro. McMaster) made a suitable presentation to Bro. Roy Maston, who is leaving us to go to W.A. We trust that he will return to us enriched with both spiritual and temporal blessings.

April 20.

C. H. MITCHELL.

ASCOT VALE.—Last Lord's day we had splendid meetings both morning and evening. At the former about 100 broke bread—a record attendance. This was afterwards followed by an excellent address from Andrew Meldrum, which was listened to very attentively by both members and strangers, who thoroughly enjoyed his stirring and powerful exhortation. At night L. H. Crosby, from South Australia, proclaimed the gospel to a full house, and at the close of a good address we had the joy of seeing two young men from the Sunday School come forward and make the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. The work is progressing steadily, and our prospects of success are bright.

J.Y.P.

COLAC.—G. H. Browne has held three gospel meetings here, and has been listened to with attention and interest. On the occasion of the first meeting, Lily Gray, the fourth daughter of Sister M. Gray, made the good confession.

WILLIAMSTOWN.—On Wednesday evening, April 8th, three ladies were buried with Christ in baptism, Bro. Lucraft conducting the service. One was received in on Lord's day morning. E.C.K.

South Australia.

QUEENSTOWN.—The anniversary services in connection with the church were held on Good Friday. Despite the wet weather, the attendances were good. The tea was nicely arranged by the sisters and enjoyed by all. At the public meeting held afterwards the chapel was filled. Dr. J. C. Verco took the chair. J. Calbourne, Jno. Verco, W. Moffit and the chairman spoke. The secretary's annual report showed the church to be in a flourishing condition. Average attendance at the Lord's day meeting, 80; 57 were received, 8 removed to sister churches, and 1 death. Now on roll 178. Since Bro. Moffit's arrival 100 have joined the church.

R.H.

KERMODE ST.—Since last report two young sisters have been added to the church by letters of transfer—Sister Jamieson, from Norwood church, and Sister Nelly Hand, from the church at Galaquill, Victoria.

April 20.

V.B.T.

KERMODE ST.—We were very pleased last Lord's day to have re-unite in fellowship with us our esteemed Bro. T. Forsyth senr., by letter of transfer from the church at Broken Hill, N.S.W.

April 6.

V.B.T.

QUEENSTOWN.—Good meetings all day. One received in the morning. In the evening at the invitation a middle-aged man stepped right on the platform and made a noble confession of his faith in Christ.

April 12.

W. MOFFIT.

HINDMARSH.—We were delighted to have Bro. and Sister Strutton with us yesterday, and from their expressions they were equally pleased to worship once again in the great congregation with old faces and friends; to them, as to us, the services were sweet.

Our brother has been absent just eight years next week, and in addressing the church in the morning, he reviewed God's sustaining grace, his faithfulness and goodness during this lengthened period, recounting some of the many rich blessings he had received; tokens of the divine favor.

Our brother addressed the Sunday School and friends in the afternoon. Mrs. Strutton also was particularly interesting in her addresses. Each one told of the work amongst the young people in India. Bro. Strutton preached in the evening to a very crowded audience.

We expect our brother will make a stay of a month before proceeding eastward. Letters may be addressed c/o Mr. A. Glastonbury, Ormond-st., Hindmarsh.

April 20.

A.G.

New South Wales.

PETERSHAM.—It gives us great joy to report continued interest in our meetings. I began to-night my second year here. We had one of the largest meetings since I came—if not the largest. There was one confession, and three were baptised.

April 5.

A.E.I.

CHATHAM.—Street preaching on Wingham resulted in a three nights' discussion on the subjects and mode of baptism, between E. H. Wright, of the Church of England, and H. Edwards. Audiences ranged from 50 to 150, and interest was unabated. The hall rent and advertising were paid by interested townspeople. The debates were briefly reported in the local press.

Chatham drought fund collection on March 22nd was £8/17/3, and was augmented to £10.

Wingham Bible Class has done good work. Three Bible Class has been started. Chatham S.S. scholars were presented with nice books by some good brothers and sisters. Sister Western has started a school of nearly 20 scholars at Wingham. Disciples looking for a prosperous district might find one here.

April 5.

H.E.

PADDINGTON.—At a church meeting on Wednesday night last, which was well attended, it was almost unanimously decided that Bro. T. Bagley be asked to continue to labor with us as evangelist after his fifth year's work, which ends in May. At this morning's meeting Bro. Bagley thanked the church for its expression of confidence in him. Good meeting at night and one confession.

April 5.

A. E. L.

New Zealand.

OMARU.—On Friday, 3rd April, a social was held in the chapel, the occasion being the departure of Bro. J. Genge from Omahu. Bro. McCracken spoke highly of Bro. Genge's services as caretaker of the chapel. Bro. J. J. Clarke also spoke in appreciative terms of the way in which our brother had done his work; and, on behalf of the church and mission band, presented Bro. Genge with a serviceable travelling bag. During the evening refreshments were served, and games, etc., indulged in. The singing of "God be with you" brought a pleasant evening to a close.

April 3.

B.P.C.

NELSON.—The anniversary of the Sunday School was celebrated on 1st April, when there was a large attendance, the platform being crowded with children. Bro. Franklyn presided, and an attractive programme of hymns, dialogues, solos, etc., was rendered by the scholars. Bro. Franklyn reported that the Sunday School had been prosperous. Addresses were delivered by Brethren Lewis, Page and Telenius, and a

number of prizes were distributed. The untiring and valuable services of Bro. and Sister Knapp were referred to, and regret was expressed that indisposition prevented the superintendent of the School (Mr. Knapp) being present.

R. COOPER.

Queensland.

BRISBANE.—On Wednesday a special church meeting was held to consider the resignation of A. E. Main, he having accepted an engagement with the Footscray church. Much regret was expressed at his intended departure, and endeavors were made to induce him to remain till next summer, but without avail. Bro. Main has done a good work while he has been here.

April 16.

A.S.W.

West Australia.

COOKERNUP.—The church at Cookernup met on April 12 for the first time in Bro. McEwen's house, at which Bro. and Sister Knight of Busbury, and Bro. Charman of Harvey met with them, after which the brethren met to consider the best way to work the South Western District so as to place before the coming conference.

April 15.

G. H. KNIGHT.

Here and There.

Here a little and there a little.—Isaiah 28: 16.

TEMPERANCE COMPETITIONS.

See "Coming Events" as to last day for entries. The sisters have the right of way this week.

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 1.

R. Steer is now secretary of the S.S. Union of New South Wales.

One confession at York (South Australia), Bro. Horsell preaching.

S.S.U., Vic.—Annual Meeting, May 4th, at 8 p.m. See "Coming Events."

J. Selwood reports a successful S.S. anniversary and picnic at Kadina, S.A.

See "Coming Events" for announcement concerning the S. S. Normal School.

H. J. Horsell of York, S.A., has been ill lately, but is now able to preach again.

A splendid meeting and one confession at Doncaster on Sunday night, Bro. Walden preaching.

S.S.U., VICTORIA.—There will be no further meeting of the General Committee until June 30th.

Bro. and Sister Strutton arrived safely in Adelaide. A welcome meeting was to have been held last night.

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

The prayers of the brethren are asked for the Jubilee Mission beginning at Lygon-street Sunday, April 26th.

A telegram from West Australia announces the fact that Thos. Hagger's mission at Subiaco closed with eighty-five decisions.

All correspondence for the Maryborough (Victoria) church should be forwarded to Wm. Beary, Maryborough P.O., who is now secretary of the church there.

Why is it that some people always boggle when a flash-light photograph is taken?

We have just received a report of the Queensland Conference, held in Brisbane on Good Friday, which will appear next week.

One of our readers in Great Britain says:—"The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN is racy, bracy, gracey and refreshing as the mountain breeze."

Andrew Meldrum at the Jubilee Meeting spoke on "The Church for the Twentieth Century." We hope soon to print this address in full.

The reference of A. C. Rankine to his father and mother at the Jubilee Conference was a noble tribute of a son to his aged and honored parents.

The reception given by the various Committees to the interstate visitors on Wednesday evening of last week was a successful and pleasant function.

The address of F. G. Dunn at the Jubilee thanksgiving meeting was a splendid resume of the history of the cause in Victoria for past fifty years.

Last Sunday week at Rookwood Bros. McIndoe and Walker conducted the gospel service, and at the close two Sunday School scholars confessed Christ.

Crowded house at North Fitzroy on Lord's day evening. Everybody delighted with the sermon by H. J. Banks. Bro. Walden begins on Tuesday evening.

We wish to say to all who have ordered the Jubilee History that they are being sent out as fast as we can get them from the binders. All will be served soon.

It was worth going a long way just to see the happy crowd gathering into the Masonic Hall to the great jubilee thanksgiving meeting on Tuesday evening week.

The church at Port Pirie, South Australia, were favored with a visit from Bro. D. Gordon, of Georgetown, on Lord's day, April 12. He spoke both morning and evening.

At York (S.A.), Bro. Horsell has endeared himself both to members and people living in the district by his kindly actions and ever readiness to give assistance in many ways to those who are in need.

Next week we will publish a full report of the great Jubilee Thanksgiving Meeting in the Masonic Hall, with the full text of the addresses given by F. G. Dunn, Andrew Meldrum and H. G. Harward.

Remember Bro. and Sister Pittman's Rescue work on SUNDAY, MAY 3.

The Swanston-st. school had their record attendance on Sunday last. At the close of the school the young men presented Roy Maston with a morocco dressing case, on the eve of his departure for West Australia.

A. R. Main has resigned his work at Brisbane, Q. He has accepted an engagement with the church at Footscray, where he will commence his labors on the first Lord's day in July. His departure from Brisbane will be much regretted.

Conference Sunday was a great day at Lygon-st. In the morning over 300 broke bread, among whom were many interstate visitors. At the evening meeting P. A. Dickson addressed a large audience, at the close of which three made the good confession.

H. G. Harward and E. W. Pittman started a tent mission in Prahran on Sunday last. A large crowd gathered in the tent. The tent is near the chapel, and visitors from the city should get off the tram at High-st. Two confessions to Tuesday night.

To reclaim the fallen is not only humanitarian but is Christ-like. **SUNDAY, MAY 3, is RESCUE HOME SUNDAY.**

We have received for Mrs. Fleming: Collected by Mrs. George Newby, Taree, N.S.W., £3/7/6; Charles Turner, Fordell, N.Z., £1; Per Sister Moysey, Doncaster, 10/-; Bunbury, W.A., 10/-; Two Sisters' Sympathy, 4/-.

Do you want to study New Testament Greek? We have in stock and for sale just the thing you need—a Greek Testament Primer by Edward Miller, M.A., of New College, Oxford, which contains grammatical and reading exercises. Used in the Australian College of the Bible. Clarendon Press Series. 138 pages. Price, 2/-; by post, 2/3.

Bro. and Sister Strutton were met at the steam boat at Largs Bay by a representative deputation from Hindmarsh, consisting of Bros. Hindley, Sharples and Taplin from the Bible Class, Sisters McGregor and Glastonbury on behalf of the ladies, and Bro. Glastonbury on behalf of the church. Bro. Harrison was also one of the deputation.

A tent mission, conducted by F. Pittman, is being held at Willunga, S.A., having started on April 15th. The small band of disciples at Willunga have made great preparations, and are doing all in their power to make the mission a success. We hope to report favorably as the mission progresses. The brethren are asked to remember this effort in their prayers. Three confessions last Sunday evening.

We have received the following:—The members of the Chinese Mission, New South Wales, are preparing for an entertainment to be held on May 26th. They are in need of an organ to help their singing; therefore, on their behalf, with your permission, I would make an appeal for some brother or sister to lend us an instrument, organ or piano, for two months from now. It may be that someone has an instrument which is not much in use and is being spoiled by moths for that reason. If so will you lend it to be used in the mission? We would like to hear at once.—H. J. GELMOOR.

On Friday evening, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Millis, the new President of the Conference and Mrs. A. Millis, senr., entertained at an "At Home" the preachers from the country and kindred friends. The topics before tea were, "Is it possible to have monthly missionary meetings on home and foreign topics in our churches?" and the subject of "doubling the Bible School by means of the Red and Blue campaign." After tea the rest of the evening was spent in singing evangelistic songs and in hearty conversations. Many said it was a happy climax to the Conference sessions, and were loud in their praises of the kindness of the host and hostess.

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY.

MAY 3.

There are at present twenty inmates in the Two Homes. We have no Funds in hand. We need £5 per week to meet Expenses. All the churches should show their practical sympathy with this work. We know it is a work which Christ approves and rejoices over. It reflects honor upon those who are pleading for a complete return to Christ in faith and life. Many poor distressed outcasts are being benefited. Let there be a generous and hearty response to our appeal.

Coming Events.

Observe the time of their coming.—Jeremiah 23:7.

MAY 4.—Sunday School Union, Victoria.—The annual meeting of the Union will be held in the Lecture Hall, Lygon-street chapel, on Monday, May 4th, at 8 o'clock. Business—Consideration and adoption of report of Executive Committee and Financial Statement and Balance Sheet; Election of officers—President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Visitors and 5 Delegates. A cordial invitation is extended to all church members and Sunday School workers. THOS. GOLE, Hon. Sec.

MAY 5.—Temperance Competitions. All entries and entrance fees for the Address and Recitation Competitions to take place at the Lygon-street chapel, Melbourne, and Dawson-street chapel, Ballarat, respectively, on May 25th, by intending competitors from the Swanston-street, Lygon-street, North Carlton, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy, Collingwood, Fairfield, South Melbourne and Ballarat Schools MUST be in my hands by Tuesday, May 5th, at the latest. No entries will be received subsequently.

THOS. GOLE, Hon. Sec. T.C.C., 41 Rowe-street, North Fitzroy.

Mr. Jas. Johnston, M.A., will be at his study in the Lygon-st. Christian chapel on Monday, April 27th, and May 4th, at 7-30 p.m., to enrol teachers and S.S. workers for the Normal School which begins on Monday, May 11th, at 8 p.m., in the University High School, Victoria-st., opposite Trades Hall.—THOS. GOLE, Hon. Sec. S.S.U.

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

Collected at Conference	..	£43	1	7
Church Ballendella	..	3	3	6
" Taradale, Conference fee	..	0	10	0
" Swanston-st	..	1	0	0
" Doncaster	..	1	0	0
" Bayswater	..	0	10	0
" Ascot Vale	..	1	0	0
" Collingwood	..	1	0	0
" Castlemaine	..	4	10	0
" Castlemaine, Conference fee	..	0	10	0
" North Richmond	..	1	0	0
" Williamstown	..	1	0	0
" Port Fairy	..	0	10	0
" South Richmond	..	0	10	0
" St. Kilda	..	0	10	0
" Brunswick	..	0	10	0
" Ballarat West	..	1	0	0
" Wampooly, Jan. Col.	..	0	5	0
Conference of Malles Churches	..	22	8	0
Church Meredith	..	5	0	0
Bro. Streater, Footscray	..	0	5	0
Sister Ashwood, Sydney	..	1	0	0
Church, South Yarra, Conference fee	..	0	10	0
" Surrey Hills	..	0	10	0
" Murrumbidgee	..	0	10	0
" South Yarra, per F. Lewis	..	1	12	11
" Collingwood, per Sister Rowles	..	0	16	0
Bro. and Sister Stimson, N.S.W.	..	2	2	0
Bro. F. G. Dunn	..	1	0	0
Mrs. Coles, per A. Millis	..	0	10	0

£97 14 0

M. McLELLAN, Sec., 233 Drummond-st., Carlton. W. C. CRAIGIE, Treas., 259 L. Collins-st., Melbourne.

WANTED.

Wanted by reliable brother: Situation, Store, Factory, Anything, Used Horses. Apply Austral.

MARRIAGE.

HARRIS—WHITBREAD.—On April 10th, in I.O.R. Hall (meeting place of the church of Christ), by Mr. J. Selwood.—Robert Joseph Harris, son of Mr. J. Harris, of Malilla, to Florence May Whitbread, third daughter of Mr. Chas. Whitbread, of Kadina.

If it isn't "Northern District"

It isn't "Starr-Bowkett."

Send us your name and address and we will tell you how and why THE SECOND NORTHERN DISTRICT STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY, Desmond Chambers, 237 Collins-st., Melbourne.

Obituary.

To live is Christ: and to die is gain.—Phil. 1: 21.

LANG.—Bro. Arthur Ernest Lang passed to his rest on the 19th March, aged 17 years. He was the sixth son of Sister H. Lang, of Nicholson-street, Fitzroy. He was delicate from early childhood. Four years ago he was laid by with enteric fever, and during the last year was prostrate with consumption. He was brought into Christ two and a half years ago by Bro. Harward's evangelistic work. Though of a retiring nature, his faith in Christ was unwavering. For some time he fully realised he was passing rapidly to his end. He longed to be with Christ. And now he is with the Lord.

Fitzroy.

S.

AUSTIN.—On the 28th of February, Bro. Francis Feather Austin died unexpectedly, at his residence, Council St., Clifton Hill, aged 54 years. Bro. Austin and his wife were baptised together by Bro. Hoochins, at Johnston-street, Fitzroy, fourteen years ago. Their membership had been unbroken with that church till our brother died. Bro. Austin's nervous temperament prevented him from taking part in the services. He was a cheerful man, a good husband and father, and all the older members of his family of ten are members of the church of Christ. He was regular and observant at all services, an active helper at tent missions in getting people seated and encouraging their attendance. May the Lord of all grace uphold his dear widow and all her household in their deep sorrow.

Fitzroy.

S.

MORRIS.—I have to record that on the evening of Lord's day, March 29th, at the residence of her uncle at Essendon, Sister Hannah Morris fell asleep in Jesus, aged 28 years. Our sister was a pattern of good works, for in her limited sphere, wherever she saw distress and help was needed, she was always there to do what she could, thus imitating the life of her divine Saviour. During her long and painful illness she often longed for "home, sweet home." When asked if at any time she had had rest, she would point upwards, saying, "There is rest, sweet rest." When some sisters visited her she would ask them to sing for her the 63th hymn in Sankey's, in the singing of which she felt greatly pleased, as it was sung on the night of her immersion. I often went to see her, and speak with her of the glories of our Father's home on high. She would always ask me to pray with and for her, in which reverent devotion she took a great delight.

Newmarket.

JOHN MORRIS.

COX.—After a long and tedious illness, extending over years—the last six months confined to her bed—our highly-esteemed sister entered into rest on Friday, the 13th inst., at the ripe age of 78. During her illness she gave abundant proof of her unwavering trust in the divine Redeemer, and longed to be freed from earth's entanglements, being assured like the Apostle Paul that "to be with Christ was far better." Every such dying Christian is one of the strongest evidences of the divinity and genuineness of Christianity. Our sister and her good husband were baptised by Mr. Frank Hales about five years ago, and until disabled she was constant in her attendance at the house of prayer. Those who have known the deceased for many years testify to her splendid natural qualities. Her kindly, genial temperament found an outlet in many generous acts, and there are many outside her own family connections who regarded her as mother. The selfish may well envy such a life and its magnificent achievements, especially when we

remember that our sister did it out of her mites. Her body was consigned to the grave on Saturday, the 14th, the writer officiating. The church desires to express its profound sympathy with our brother, who must finish the pilgrimage alone, and with every member of the family, trusting to see our sister again in the eternal morning. An In Memoriam service was held on Lord's day evening, when we sought to improve the occasion. May the removal by death of young and old impress us all with the shortness and uncertainty of human life, that we may the more earnestly apply ourselves to the work the Master has given us to do.

Nelson, N.Z., March 23.

JOS. J. FRANKLYN.

Jas. Manning,

ESTATE AGENT.

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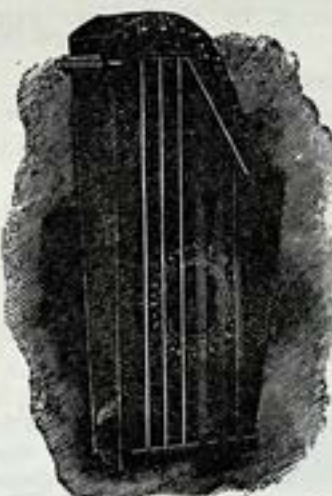
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