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¶ Members are requested to bring this copy for reference.

Associated Churches of Christ in Western Australia Eighth Annual Conference, 1905

Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

I. PRELIMINARY.

To the Members of Associated Churches of Christ in Western Australia:—

Dear Brethren,—It is our privilege once again, in the order of God's providence, to present reports of another year's efforts by yourselves in the establishment of churches whose faith and practice are in accord with the church of the New Testament.

With pleasure we mention the trend of present day thought toward a united church, although contemporary reformers appear to go no farther than a federation of churches while retaining denominational distinctions. We feel that the position taken by us is so much in harmony with New Testament teaching that it must eventually be the common platform from which the question of union will be discussed. In view of this it rests upon us all to take no mean view of what we are accustomed to call "Our Plea," for it is spacious and high enough to form a meeting-place for all who love the Saviour, though they differ on a hundred questions which now seem to keep apart those who should be united. We must, however, realise that the time is not yet when we can see our position taken up widely, but in patient continuance must seek to estab-

lish the Redeemer's kingdom, learning and teaching the real significance of "Our Plea," building up a people renowned for practical Christianity, full of spiritual life and vigor.

While able to report a substantial numerical increase we do not consider that numbers alone should be regarded as the index of our growth, because if spiritual life be lacking in our members, mere weight of numbers can have no influence beyond their numerical value. We beg to record an emphatic protest against the growing tendency among our churches of placing too much reliance on mere numbers as an evidence of our growing power in the community.

2. STATISTICS.

(To be read with Statistical Tables on page 162; numbers in parentheses are for previous year.)

There are now 18 (15) churches in association (including those which are this year

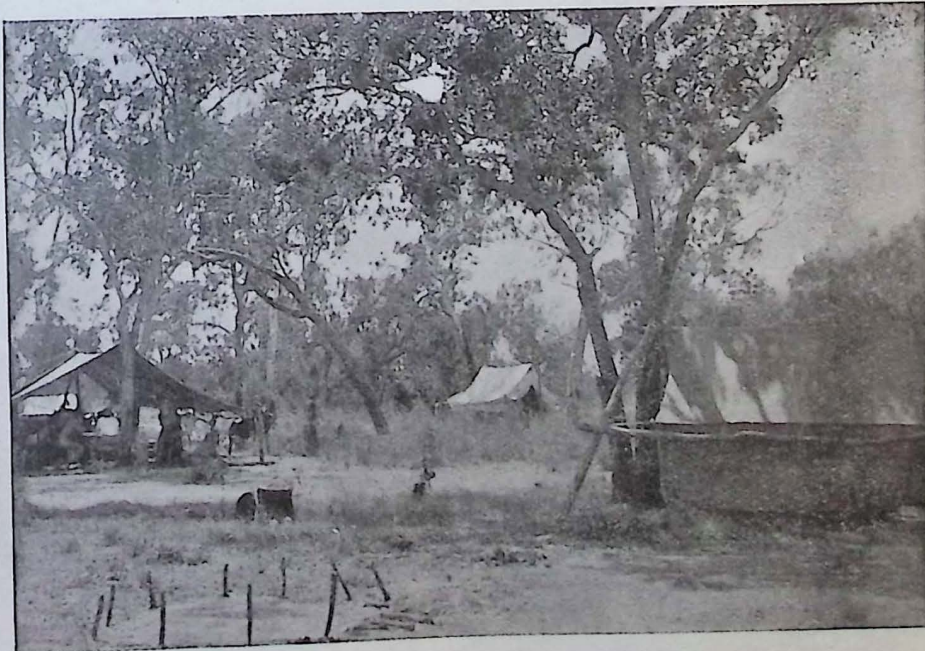
applying for admission), with a total membership of 1496 (1284), being an increase of 3 (3) churches and 212 (317) members. The gains have been 72 (57) by letter from other States, 210 (323) by faith and obedience, 46 (35) by persons restored or formerly immersed, and 22 isolated members recovered. The losses have been 28 (31) by departure from the State, 7 (6) by death, and 84 (84) by revision of roll.

The number of Sunday Schools is 11 (8), with 112 (96) teachers and 1061 (944) scholars, while during the year 33 (40) scholars have been added to the church.

3. FINANCES.

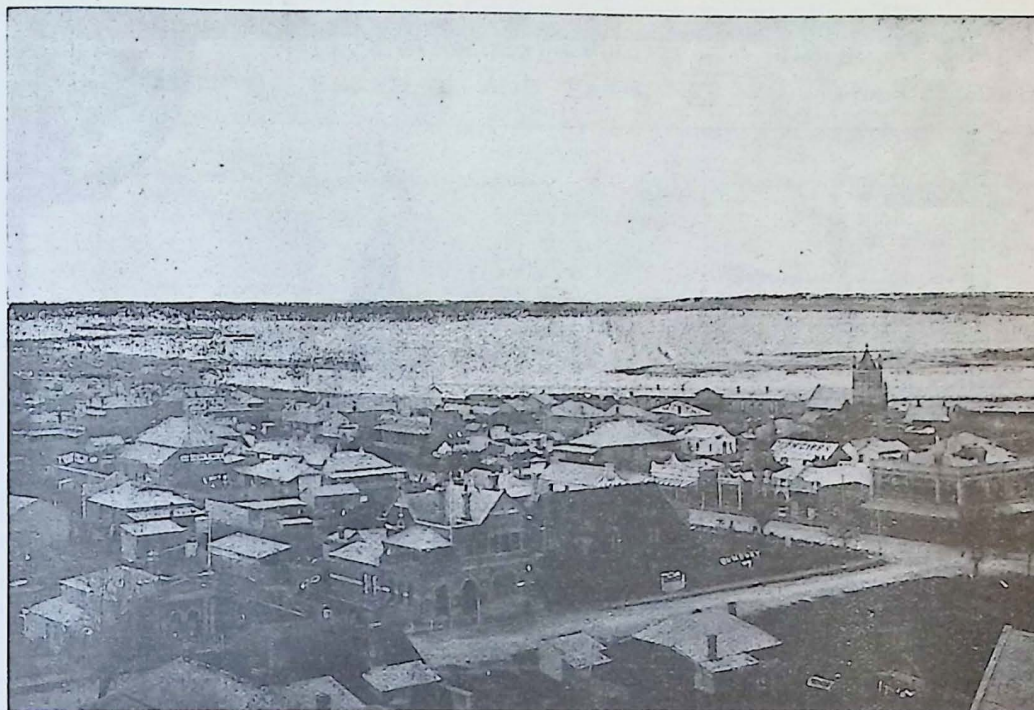
(To be read with Treasurer's Statement on page 161)

Although the statement of receipts and payments for the year opened with a credit balance of £19/5/6, the position of our general account, however, showed a debit balance of £29/19/-. This debit balance we have not been able to overtake, and our position for some months past has been such as to cause your Committee a great deal of anxiety. The statement now presented shows a debit balance in the general account of £26 10/4, and the amount of our outstanding liabilities at the close of the year was £32/7/9, making our indebtedness £59/8/1; against this there is an amount of £7/4/8 due to your Committee from the Christian Book Depot. From this you will see that funds are immed-



JUST ON THE LAND. A PIONEER SELECTION IN W.A.
Lent by W.A. Lands Department.





BUNBURY.

Lent by W.A. Lands Department.

ately required to fully meet the obligations in connection with Home Mission work. The total receipts for the year were £802/1/3, as against £646/11/9 for previous year, whilst the payments amounted to £820/6/1, as against £674/7/6 for previous year. There is therefore an excess of payments over receipts for the year of £18/4/10. Thus the motto "£1000 for Home Missions" as set forth in last year's report was not realised, and for the work to be carried on as at present in hand it will be necessary to raise from £900 to £1000. This is without allowing for extension into other fields such as provided for in the recommendations contained in the report of the Home Missionary Committee.

4. UNION WITH BAPTISTS.

In June a letter was received from the Baptist Union (Incorporated), proposing a Conference between representatives of the two bodies on the question of "closer corporate union." F. Illingworth, A. Lucraft, D. A. Ewers, D. M. Wilson, T. Hagger and H. J. Banks were appointed, and met the Baptist representatives on three occasions, the ultimate decision being that "they were unable to agree on a satisfactory basis of union."

5. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

During July an invitation to send representatives to a proposed Conference for the purpose of inaugurating a Council of Churches was received. F. Illingworth, D. A. Ewers, Alan Price, H. J. Banks and T. Hagger were appointed to represent us. The Conference was held, and resulted in F. Illingworth, Alan Price and D. A. Ewers being elected to the Executive Committee of

the Council as representatives of the churches of Christ, subject to ratification by Conference.

6. FEDERAL CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALASIA.

Following the endorsement by Conference last year of the proposal to hold a Federal Conference, the Victorian Executive (which was given power to call a Conference providing four States were in favor) has arranged for the first one to be held in Melbourne from June 2nd to June 6th next. Programmes showing business to be discussed will shortly, we expect, be in circulation, and it will be the privilege of West Australia to appoint delegates.

7. ISOLATED MEMBERS.

(To be read with the Correspondent's Report.)

Realising the necessity of getting into closer touch with the large and increasing number of our members scattered all over the State in isolation, advantage was taken of Bro. Hagger's offer to act as Correspondent. An energetic start has been made in the work, which is dealt with in the Correspondent's Report.

8. AGED PREACHERS' FUND.

For financial reasons, the scheme approved by last Conference has not been put before the churches. We recommend that the incoming Committee be authorised to introduce the matter, the expenses to be met from the Conference Funds and to be recouped from the new fund as a first charge upon it.

9. SALE OF LITERATURE.

(To be read with Financial Report and Draft Constitution.)

This matter has been put on a more businesslike basis, being entrusted to a provi-

sional Committee, consisting of Alan Price, T. Hagger, and A. A. Lightfoot. Suggested Constitution for the Literature Department is now submitted for your approval. The Committee reports that the debentures have not been taken up with the readiness that might have been expected, this being due probably more to failure on the part of members to realise the objects than to any unwillingness to co-operate. Although the limited business has been entirely satisfactory, it cannot be taken as a criterion of what is possible. A large increase can be confidently looked for as the ability of the Depot to meet any demand for literature or church supplies becomes more widely known among the churches, whose assistance we ask in the way of orders.

Our thanks are due to the church at Lake st. for permission to use space in their vestry for a temporary store.

10. BYE-LAWS.

We submit a code of bye-laws for your consideration as being calculated to help to the smooth working of Conference business. The necessity for such a code will be more apparent as the organisation grows.

11. MEETINGS.

The Home Missionary Committee has held 15 meetings, the attendance of members being as under:—A. Bell, 14; H. J. Banks (Vice-President), 14; D. A. Ewers, 12; H. Gould, 13; T. Hagger, 5; A. A. Lightfoot (Secretary), 15; A. W. Manning (Assistant-Secretary), 15; A. Price, 12; J. F. P. Pallot (President), 12; D. M. Wilson, 13; H. Wright, 12; W. Vinicombe, 13.

In July last Bro. Hagger resigned, having accepted engagement as State Evangelist. The vacancy was not filled, the Committee having no authority to do so, but it was decided to recommend that in future the names of the two brethren obtaining the highest number of votes after those elected each year, should be given by the returning officer to the Executive in order that vacancies occurring might be filled.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

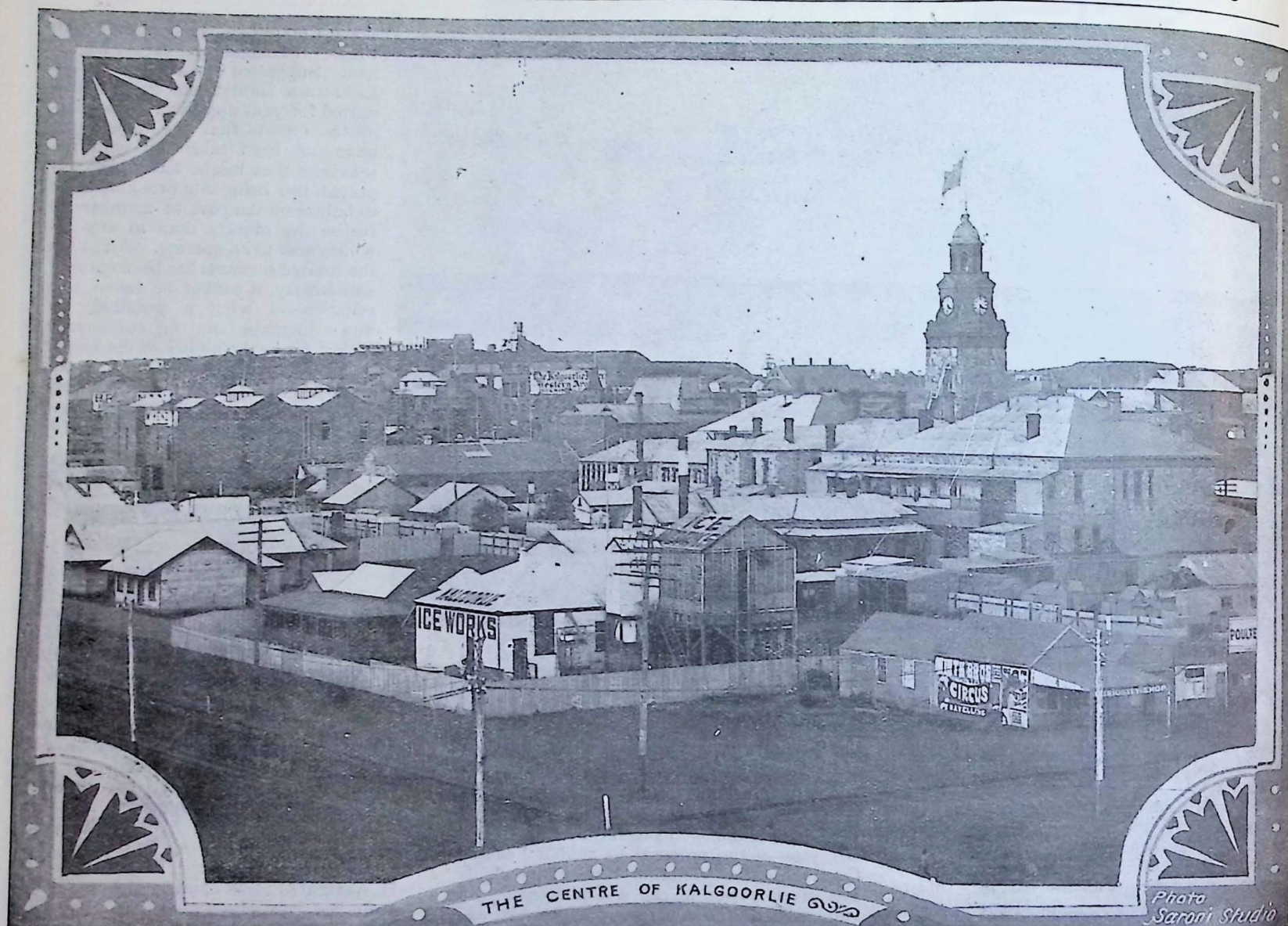
(Signed) JOHN F. P. PALLOT, Pres.
ARTHUR A. LIGHTFOOT, Sec.

March 1st, 1905.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

I. PAST WORK.

The work during the past year has been continued satisfactorily, and all the assisted churches have been successful in making their positions stronger. We believe strong churches are being built up in the more populous centres, while in various parts of the State members have organised themselves into churches, which in turn we hope will become centres of influence to extend the gospel in their neighborhood. Among these we may mention North Perth, Maylands, Collie, York and Day Dawn.



THE CENTRE OF KALGOORLIE.

Kindly lent by the "Western Mail."

The Committee has not had the ability to assist the many churches needing help, but continuance of the State Evangelist's work will ensure each in turn being assisted if it is so desired.

The State has suffered by the exodus of promising young men who have gone to better prepare themselves for the work of preaching the gospel. We trust that the time is not far distant when an Australian College of the Bible will offer facilities which our young men are now compelled to seek in distant parts of the world. We mention with a degree of pleasure the work that is being conducted in our own State towards training our young men, classes being conducted in Perth by D. A. Ewers, Alan Price, B.A., and H. J. Banks, and in Boulder by A. J. Saunders.

LAWSON CAMPBELL has continued to work with the Kalgoorlie church, with visits to adjacent churches; he has determined, however, to sever his connection with the Committee after Conference, as he contemplates a visit to other parts of the world.

We regret that we are losing his services, and trust that we may have the pleasure of welcoming him on his resumption of work in Australia.

T. H. SCAMBLER returned to Boulder until July, when he was transferred to work with the church at Bunbury and the churches in the south-western districts, where at Collie and Harvey during the tent missions he assisted Bro. Hagger by taking charge of the musical part of the meetings. With deep regret we refer to our brother's recent bereavement in the death of his sister wife. As far as such comfort can be of use on such occasions, Bro. Scambler has had the deepest sympathy of those who are of the household of faith with him.

A. J. SAUNDERS, at the invitation of the Committee, came from Victoria to work with the church at Boulder, where he has been engaged since July. The engagement was for twelve months, at the termination of which Bro. Saunders purposes leaving the State to pursue a further course of studies in America. We hope at some future date to

be associated again with him in gospel work.

W. B. HAYES entered upon the work with the church at North Fremantle in May, and continued until the end of December, when he left to work with the church at Dandenong, Victoria, where we trust great successes await him.

T. HAGGER entered into an engagement for twelve months from September last to act as State Evangelist (the church at Fremantle having released him from their engagement), and has conducted tent missions at Leederville (two) and Collie, besides visiting each of the churches in the south-western districts. At the time of writing it is intended to conduct a mission with the church at Harvey, to be followed by similar efforts at York and Northern should the prospects warrant.

We have to record our appreciation of the earnest and devoted labors of all our evangelists, and those who have assisted during the year in the gospel work, and thankfulness to our heavenly Father for souls brought to a knowledge of the truth through their efforts.

The Associated Churches of Christ in West Australia
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY, 1905

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
Balance from previous year	...	...	£19 5 6	Salaries—W. G. L. Campbell	...	202 15 0	
Contributions—Churches				T. H. Scambler	...	206 0 0	
Donnybrook	...	2 11 0		C. Miller	...	42 0 0	
Fremantle	...	30 3 6		W. B. Hayes	...	66 0 0	
Harvey	...	4 2 10		A. J. Saunders	...	88 15 0	
Leederville	...	5 15 0		Expenses—T. H. Scambler	...	5 2 0	
North Perth	...	3 19 10		C. Miller	...	0 18 0	
Perth	...	121 5 8		A. J. Saunders	...	10 0 0	
Preston	...	3 14 2					621 10 0
Subiaco	...	31 18 6		State Evangelist Expenses—T. Hagger Salary	...	117 5 0	
Southern Cross	...	10 5 3		Seats for Tent	...	7 4 0	
York	...	3 5 0		Tent Repairs	...	7 10 0	
			217 0 9	Leederville Expenses	...	3 7 6	
Assisted Churches—Boulder	...	131 19 6		S. W. District Expenses	...	17 19 1	153 5 7
Coolgardie	...	16 15 1					
Kalgoorlie	...	143 7 6		Conference Expenses—Hire of Halls	...	3 3 0	
Bunbury	...	97 11 6		Advertising	...	3 17 0	
North Fremantle	...	23 5 11		Nicholson & Co.	...	1 1 0	
			412 19 6	Printing	...	4 3 0	
State Evangelist Fund—Contributions	...	92 19 0		Austral Co.	...	5 12 6	
Collie Thank-offering	...	3 3 9		Sundries	...	1 15 0	19 11 6
Leederville Thank-offering	...	4 19 6					
Donnybrook on a/c Expenses	...	1 7 6		Conference Lunch and Tea	...	...	1 15 3
			102 9 9	Petty Cash and Incidental Expenses	...	...	8 1 1
Isolated Brethren	...	5 11 7		Printing and Stationery	...	...	2 11 0
Conference Collection	...	12 15 0		Isolated Brethren	...	...	1 6 1
Conference Picnic	...	33 11 0		Book a/c	...	...	1 5 7
Collection Home Mission Meeting, Subiaco	...	5 5 2		Tent Organ	...	...	11 0 0
Bunbury Mission, Sale of Carbide	...	1 8 6		Debit Balance General a/c	...	26 10 4	
Tent Organ Fund	...	11 0 0		Credit Loan from Menzies Church	...	27 11 0	
			£821 6 9	Credit Balance	...	...	1 0 8
							£821 6 9

Perth, March 1st, 1905.

HY. WRIGHT, Treas.

Audited and found correct,

C. J. GARLAND,
CHARLES H. KING, } Auditors.

2. FUTURE WORK.

The churches are to suffer loss by the departure of two of our preachers in the near future, and it will be necessary to fill their places; this duty will fall to the lot of the incoming Committee. The work on the Eastern Goldfields has been a heavy charge for a number of years, and at the present stage of development, when the time of independence from outside financial help is almost in sight, the work must not be allowed to recede.

The church at Coolgardie should have better assistance, and by a rearrangement and proper distribution of preaching talent this should be possible during the coming year.

It will be necessary not only to sustain the preaching staff at its present strength, but to authorise the Committee to add to it as the year advances. The most important step yet taken in connection with our work in Western Australia has been the engagement of a STATE EVANGELIST, whose work in the various towns must be followed up by stationing preachers to consolidate the work. Young men who have the ability and who desire to enter the work will be needed.

In connection with the mission work, it is evident that the tent which has seen such good service for the past five years has reached its final year of usefulness. A new tent will be a necessity before next Conference, the estimated cost of which is £80.

In the past the preachers have done their part, and we expect they will do so again,

but the work depends not on the Committee or the preachers, but on the fifteen hundred members who compose our eighteen churches, whose delegates must come prepared to say how much they are in earnest about preaching the gospel. It is estimated that £1200 is required to meet all expenses, maintain the present staff, and to provide for two young men to come into the work. £1000 will wipe off the deficiency and enable the Committee to carry on with a staff at same strength as last year. With a membership of say 1500, a contribution of 4d. each per week will provide the larger sum. Let our motto this year be—

“£1250 FOR HOME MISSIONS,
500 SOULS FOR CHRIST.”

The question whether or not it can be done should be answered by the brethren in the churches when they appoint their delegates to voice their opinions. It is absolutely useless for delegates to vote for increased expenditure if the members have not made up their minds to provide the money.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS.

We recommend—

1. That the work of the State Evangelist be continued provided the financial support is forthcoming.

2. That work in connection with the Eastern Goldfields churches be continued.

3. That provided the South-western churches are willing to co-operate, a young man be engaged to assist the Bunbury evangelist in his work.

On behalf of the Home Missionary Committee,

JOHN F. P. PALLOT, Pres.

ARTHUR A. LIGHTFOOT, Sec.

Mar. 1, 1905.

ISOLATED BRETHREN CORRESPONDENCE.

At the request of the Home Missionary Committee this work was undertaken in November last. Enquiries which were made resulted in 190 names being placed on the list. Of this number 10 have taken membership at Collie, 1 had fallen asleep, 3 have been removed from the list as letters addressed to them have been returned through the Dead Letter Office, 3 have removed to a place where there is a church, and 1 has been removed as there is now a church where he resides although he is not identified with it. There are 172 names on the list at the present time, made up as follows:—

In membership in W.A. congregations, 130
Not in membership in W.A. ... 42

These are in all parts of the State, from Port Hedland in the north to Albany in the south. In several places there are as many as 5 to 7 brethren, quite enough to make a nice beginning for the Lord. It is possible that there are many other isolated brethren in the State, and if those who know of such would only take the trouble to send on particulars good might result. Church secretaries could help much by sending on the addresses of members who remove to places where we have no

WEST AUSTRALIA STATISTICS

FOR YEAR ENDING 28TH FEBRUARY, 1905.

CHURCH.	Membership, 1904.	Additions.					Losses.				Membership, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.	Isolated Members on Roll.	Average Attendance Lord's Table, M. & E.	Additions, School to Church	Sunday Schools.				Contributions to Mission Funds, Including Individual Contributions.																										
		By Letter		By Faith, and Obedience.	Restoration or Formerly Immersed.	By Letter		Revision of Roll & Discipline.	Death.	Teachers.							Scholars.	Teachers		Scholars		Home.				Foreign.																					
		From Outside State.	From Inside State.			Outside State.	Inside State.											Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	1904.		1905.		1904.		1905.																			
																						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.														
Boulder	99	9	6	16	1	8	7	6	2	108	9		9	50		8	118			58		128	9	0	135	15	6	1	5	2	10	2	6														
Bunbury	38		11	22	1		6	1	1	64	26		6	33	2	6	40	2		8		14	7	8	101	11	6	1	6	6	6	6	3														
Coolgardie	67		4	2			2	7	1	63		4	16	25		6	59	1		28		8	14	6	16	15	1	3	6	9	6	4	7														
Collie*		8	3	18	3					32	32		2	28		7	40		7	40						4	6	9																			
Donnybrook	13		2			4				11		2		5								0	4	3	3	18	6			1	7	9															
Fremantle	305	10	8	39	3	5	29	3	1	327	22		50	115	12	15	203		8	19		38	10	10	44	16	6	38	18	10	34	12	8														
Harvey	13	3		2						18	5			8								1	6	6	4	2	10	0	15	0	0	14	0														
Kalgoorlie	75	11	9	11	3	1	5	4		99	24		4	41	2	5	40			26		100	12	6	144	17	6	4	14	7	6	9	0														
Kanowna†	5									5												12	12	0				2	5	0																	
Leederville	24		16	31	5			1		75	51		4	50		12	68	12		68		3	12	9	11	17	6	2	7	7	4	1	4														
Menzies†	6									6												1	0	0				0	10	0		1	5	0													
Midland Junc†	14									14																						0	12	0													
N. Fremantle	78		2	5		2	14	20		49	29	2	2	42		9	60	1		15		4	10	9	23	10	5	0	11	6	5	19	6														
N. Perth*			12	5						17	17			14	3	4	24	4		24		3	19	10		3	19	10				1	19	8													
Perth	311	25	25	29	7	2	45	32		318	7		48	140	3	20	209		3	26		145	1	8	165	12	8	29	11	9	37	2	2														
Preston†					18					18	18														3	14	2																				
Subiaco	230	6	13	30	5	6	19	10	2	247	17		10	122	11	20	200			23		149	17	6	54	1	0	15	7	6	35	2	11														
York			3							3	3														3	5	0						0	5	0												
South'n Cross†	6																					2	2	0				10	5	3																	
Isolated Memb.										22	22	6										5	0	0				5	11	7			1	0	0												
Totals	1284	72	114	210	46	28	127	84	7	1496	253	41	151	673	33	112	1061	27	11	226	109	616	1	11	738	1	7	101	0	2	153	4	4														
Net Increases—											Special Collections, &c.											27		7		9		18		0		2		2		15		94									
Church Membership, 212.											Tent Organ																	11		0		0															
S.S. Scholars, 117.											Total													£643		9		8		£767		1		9		£101		0		2		£156		0		14	
S.S. Teachers, 16.																																															

*New Churches (3). †Members Dispersed.
‡No Returns (last year's figures taken).

Net Increases—
Church Membership, 212.
S.S. Scholars, 117.
S.S. Teachers, 16.

Special Collections, &c.
Tent Organ

Total £643 9 8 £767 1 9 £101 0 2 £156 0 14

church whenever such removals take place.

Altogether 133 letters have been sent out to these scattered believers, 4 of which have been returned. Only 21 replies, representing 22 members, have been received, leaving 107 letters yet unanswered. This may be viewed as discouraging by some, but when we remember that some of these brethren have been isolated for years, and some through prolonged absence from the assembly of the saints have become somewhat cold, it is not surprising. A little patience and a little more effort will doubtless result in many more being heard from. Ten of the replies contained donations for Home Mission work, which amounted to £6/1/-; others have expressed a willingness, but a present inability to help in this way.

The few brethren at Day Dawn, York and Narrogin have the breaking of bread on the Lord's day—all honor to them. Wherever there are two or more disciples the idea of doing likewise is being urged upon them.

Some letters received are quite pathetic. Brethren write of their trials, and how difficult they find it to keep true when away from church fellowship. Others breathe enthusiasm, and express a willingness on the part of the writers to distribute our tracts in their districts, and speak hopefully of the establishment of New Testament churches in their communities.

This host of isolated brethren is a powerful plea for W.A. Home Missions. When we think of so many of "like precious faith with us" deprived of the privileges we enjoy from Lord's day to Lord's day, and that many of them are in jeopardy spiritually, we should become enthusiastic about establishing a church of God in every community in the State. To do this there must be combined

and self-sacrificing efforts in the cause of Home Missions. THOS. HAGGER.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

1. NAME.—The name to be "The Literature Department of the Associated Churches of Christ in Western Australia," and the place of business to be called "The Christian Book Depôt."

2. OBJECTS.—The objects of the institution shall be to circulate literature containing the distinctive teaching of churches of Christ throughout the State, with a view to the propagation of the gospel; to be a convenience for the brethren and churches in obtaining literature and church supplies of all kinds, and to establish a depôt where such may be stocked.

3. FINANCE.—The Committee appointed shall be at liberty to issue debentures at five shillings each, redeemable in two years from date of issue, to the amount of £50, proceeds of which may be used as capital. A report with balance sheet to be presented each year to the Annual Conference.

4. CONTROL.—Control of the business to be placed under a Committee (to be known as the *Literature Committee*), one member of which shall be chosen from the Conference Executive. The Literature Committee shall be appointed annually by Conference as provided by the Constitution, paragraph 9.

Any new enterprise involving new capital expenditure must be sanctioned by the Executive of Conference.

The Literature Committee have power to appoint a manager if the business warrants such an officer.

A. A. LIGHTFOOT, Sec.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

I. INTRODUCTORY.

In presenting our third annual report we announce with pleasure increased interest and enthusiasm in Foreign Mission work and reverently give thanks unto our heavenly Father for the privilege of being co-workers with him in world-wide evangelism.

2. OFFICERS.

Soon after Conference your Committee met and appointed officers as follows:—President, D. A. Ewers; Treasurer, J. F. P. Pallot; Secretary, H. J. Banks

3. MISSIONARIES.

The missionaries supported by the Australian church-s are:—Sister Mary Thompson, Harda, C.P., India; Bro. and Sister Stubbin, Hatta, India; M. J. Shah, Handia, India (a native preacher); Sister Rosa L. Tonkin, Shanghai, China; P. A. Davey, Tokyo, Japan; J. Thompson, Childers, Q.; and Tabymancan, Pentecost, South Sea Islands. In addition to these Sister Mary Ahgan and Wm. James labor among the Chinese in Melbourne and Sydney, a number of native preachers are supported in India, and £52 has been granted to Bro. Sherriff to assist in his work among the natives of Bulawayo, South Africa. This work is proving very successful, and the question of sending a man to devote his whole time to the mission is under favorable consideration. Bro. Sherriff reports that 88 natives and 7 whites have already been baptized.

We announce with pleasure that P. A. Davey is to visit Australia early this year. During his stay your Committee hope to arrange for him to visit this Western State.

It is with regret we call attention to the fact that among all our missionaries not one is from Western Australia. Leslie Baker of Fremantle is now undergoing a course of instruction in the College of the Bible, Kentucky, with a view to entering the Foreign field, and we trust the time is not distant when others will volunteer and we will have our own representatives in heathen lands.

4. CHINESE CLASSES.

During the year the question of Chinese classes in Perth has been carefully considered. So far, beyond ascertaining that teachers and scholars are available, nothing has been done. It is hoped that the incoming Committee will see its way to undertake this good work.

5. CHILDREN'S DAY.

On Lord's day, November 6th, the annual Sunday School offering for the orphans in India amounted to £9/10/1. The schools that assisted were:—Boulder, Bunbury, Coolgardie, Fremantle, North Fremantle, North Perth, Perth and Subiaco. We would urge all our schools to give special attention to "Children's Day" this year.

6. SEWING RALLY.

A sewing rally arranged by your Committee on Tuesday, Sept. 20th, proved a success. 60 sisters from the churches at Fremantle, Perth, Leederville, North Perth and Subiaco assembled in the Lake-street chapel and made about 150 garments for the children in our Indian orphanages. These, with a large number forwarded from the sisters at Boulder, Coolgardie, North Fremantle and Kalgoorlie, were sent on to Sister Mary Thompson.

7. FINANCES.

We are pleased to announce that the amount asked for at last Conference, £150, has been more than realised, the total receipts being £157/0/1½. Of this amount, £145/12/0½ was sent to the Executive in Victoria, £8/10/1 direct to India, and £2/18/- retained for local expenses. This shows an increase of £55/18/2½ over last year. Encouraged by the splendid response to our last appeal, we come to you with the suggestion that our motto for 1905-6 be "£200 for Foreign Missions."

8. RESIGNATION OF MISS E. GOULD.

Sister E. Gould having removed to Victoria tendered her resignation to the Committee. This was accepted with regret, she having proved herself a faithful worker and in many ways a great help to the Committee.

9. MEETINGS.

Ten Committee meetings have been held since last Conference with attendances as follows:—D. A. Ewers, 9; J. F. P. Pallot, 7; Miss E. Gould, 7; Miss Campbell, 4; T. Hagger, 3; Mrs. Ewers, 3; H. J. Banks, 10.

10. THANKS.

We have to express our thanks to the collectors in the various churches, to the auditors, Bren. Lucraft and Vinicombe, and especially to Bro. Gould, who kindly granted us the use of his home for Committee meetings.

On behalf of the Committee,
D. A. EWERS, Pres.
H. J. BANKS, Sec.

W.A. FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.			
Balance Last Year	...	£0	2 4
Perth ...	£34 0 8		
Subiaco ...	32 18 11		
Fremantle ...	33 1 4		
North Fremantle ...	5 11 6		
Leederville ...	4 1 4		
Kalgoorlie ...	6 9 0		
Coolgardie ...	5 16 7		
Boulder ...	9 11 6		
Menzies ...	1 5 0		
Donnybrook ...	1 7 9		
North Perth ...	1 15 5		
Midland ...	0 12 0		
Bunbury ...	6 4 3		
Harvey ...	0 14 0		
Maylands ...	1 0 0		
York ...	0 5 0		
Isolated Brother ...	1 0 0		
Collected at Conference	2 15 9½		
		148	12 4½

Children's Day Contributions—

Sunday School, Perth	3 1 6
" Subiaco	2 4 0
" Fremantle	1 11 4
" N. Perth	0 4 3
" N. Fremantle	0 8 0
" Coolgardie	0 8 0
" Bunbury	0 2 0
" Boulder	0 11 0
	8 10 1

EXPENDITURE.

Remitted Executive Committee	£146 0 11
" Sister Thompson	8 5 11
Freight on Box of Clothes to India	1 5 9
Postage and Exchange	1 9 10½
	£157 2 5½

Audited and found correct,

A. LUCRAFT
W. E. VINICOMBE } Auditors.

JOHN F. P. PALLOT, Treas.
Fremantle, 8th March, 1905.

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COASTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

It is with pleasure we present a brief report of the work done by our Union for the past year.

There are now 7 schools in the Union—
teachers and

Perth	20	officers	209	scholars
North Perth	4	"	24	"
Subiaco	21	"	200	"
Leederville	11	"	68	"
Fremantle	15	"	203	"
Nth. Fremantle	9	"	65	"
Bunbury	6	"	40	"
	86		809	

During the year 2 new schools have joined the Union—Leederville and North Perth.

There are now 52 honorary members, and we hope and trust that in the ensuing year the number will be more than doubled.

We are pleased to report that during the year 22 scholars have been added to the church from the schools in the Union. This is very gratifying, as it shows that efficient teaching is being carried on in the Sunday Schools. The annual examination held in July last has been the most successful yet held. As a result of negotiations with the Goldfields Union, both Unions united for the purpose of this examination, thus making the competition more keen. Altogether 90 scholars and 12 teachers presented themselves for examination. The awards are divided as follows:—

Subiaco	12	prizes, 9	Merit Cert. 1	Cer.
Fremantle	5	" 4	" 8	"
Perth	1	" 6	" 4	"
N. Fremantle	1	" 1	" 1	"
Goldfields	3	" 1	" 6	"
	22	21	20	

An honor card was presented to Subiaco, the premier school in the examinations.

At the business meeting in July last the following officers were elected:—President, D. M. Wilson; Vice President, H. J. Machin; Secretary, W. E. Vinicombe; Treasurer, J. Ewers. We regret to report that we have since had to accept the resignation of our Secretary, Bro. Vinicombe. T. Hutchison has filled his position.

During the year two teachers' combined Conferences were held at Subiaco for the purpose of discussing a uniform system of marks. Though it was not so successful as could have been desired, still we feel sure that much good will result from the interchange of views.

The annual picnic was held at Claremont on New Year's Day.

We have to thank the officers of Perth and Subiaco for the use of their respective buildings on various occasions.

We go forward into the new year with the full assurance of our heavenly Father's blessing, knowing that as he has blessed us in the past, so he will in the future. We ask for your prayers and sympathy in the work.

On behalf of the Union,

D. M. WILSON, Pres.
T. HUTCHISON, Sec.

—o—

GOLDFIELDS SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

During the year just closing things have gone on smoothly in connection with our Union. The schools have been visited and reported on at the Union meetings.

At the annual meeting held on June 1st, 1904, the following officers were elected:—President, C. E. Pond; Vice-President, J. W. B. Robinson; Treasurer, W. Pond; Secretary and Visitor, Geo. Banks.

The Union consists of two schools—Boulder, consisting of 118 scholars with 8 teachers, and Kalgoorlie, with 40 scholars and 5 teachers.

The annual examination was held this year in conjunction with the Coastal Union. Only 19 of our scholars competed, obtaining three prizes, one merit certificate, and five certificates.

In connection with the Boulder school a morning class is conducted by one of the teachers at her private residence, about 13 boys and girls attending.

The amalgamation with the Coastal Union is to be arranged at the coming Conference, so next year there will be one Union embracing the whole of the State, and united we will enter upon another year's work with every prospect of a successful year.

C. E. POND, Pres.
GEO. BANKS, Sec.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

During the year your Committee has held five Committee and five public meetings, the latter being held in the following towns:—Subiaco (2), Leederville, Maylands and North Fremantle. The Leederville meeting, which was held just prior to the sitting of the Licensing Bench, owing to licences having been applied for in the district, was large and enthusiastic, over 300 being present. The Subiaco meetings were also well attended. One was a gathering of ratepayers and residents to protest against the granting of any further licences.

After careful consideration it was decided to recommend our schools throughout the State to hold a Temperance Sunday, when special addresses should be delivered and pledges taken. The following schools agreed to do so:—Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Fremantle, North Fremantle and Perth. Subiaco refused to take pledges. We are pleased to state that as a result of this effort 169 pledges were signed.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the Mayor of Subiaco, Mr. Prowse, who presided over the meetings at Leederville and Subiaco, Mr. Gould for the use of his house for Committee meetings, and the churches for the use of their buildings and the Mission Tent.

The attendances at Committee meetings have been as follows:—Sisters Illingworth 2, Berry 2, Butcher 2, Ewers 3, Gould 3, Hewitt 3; Bros. Banks 3, Ewers 3, Clegg 1, Hart 1, Cumming 3, W. A. Smith 4.

H. J. BANKS, President.
W. A. SMITH, Secretary.

TRAINING CLASSES.

The important work of fitting young men for more effective gospel preaching is being attended to. The classes meet two nights in the week, the teachers being D. A. Ewers, H. J. Banks and Alan Price.

Affiliation with the Melbourne College of the Bible has recently been arranged, both as regards the classes held in Perth and those conducted at Boulder by A. J. Saunders. The course of study is in accordance with that of the Melbourne College, which is the examining body and issues certificates and diplomas. The competitive element is thus introduced and should act as a stimulus to all the classes interested. Uniformity is also secured, and students commencing their studies in Perth and obtaining certificates will be credited with these should they desire to complete the course at headquarters in Melbourne.

ALAN PRICE, B.A.

The Book Stall will be a feature of the Conference gathering. A carefully selected stock will be on hand and members requiring literature of any kind cannot do better than consult Bro. Hagger. Country members writing for books can depend on being supplied if the book required is obtainable.

Members attending Conference should endeavor to be present at the opening devotional service. Alan Price will be the leader and A. J. Saunders the speaker.

CONFERENCE HELPS.

1. A knowledge by each delegate of the help needed by the church he represents and the amount of "self-help" it is prepared to give, and authority to speak for the church in definite terms.

2. Not allowing local needs to shut out the needs of the State as a whole. If your church does not require help, say how much it will give in any case.

3. Observation of the courtesy and order which govern all well-conducted meetings; obedience to the chairman's ruling without question, and good humor in all discussions, the losing party smiling the sweetest.

4. Observation of the principle of "give and take," remembering "it is more blessed to give than receive."

5. Observation of the Golden Rule—Do unto others as we would have them do to us.

6. Careful study of the reports and notice paper before starting to discuss them.

THE STATE EVANGELIST.

THOS. HAGGER.

That is the evangelist whose parish is the whole of the vast State of W.A. Concerning him and his work let us notice.

I. THE NEED.

Other evangelists—and the more of them the better—are needed to carry on the work in as many districts as possible; but in addition to such a brother is needed whose district shall extend from Wyndham to Albany, and from Fremantle to the South Australian border; who shall move about the State, getting into touch with the brethren who are scattered abroad, establishing churches wherever possible, and strengthening existing churches by means of tent and other missions. The need for such a worker is seen when we note the very many communities in which no church of the apostolic order yet exists, and when we think of the large number of isolated members who are longing for and in some instances dying for the want of church fellowship.

2. THE HISTORY.

Arrangements were made with the writer in the latter part of 1902 to spend some five months in this State at mission work. The success of this effort convinced many brethren that it would be wise to have a brother devoting himself largely to this work. At the Annual Conference held the following June a resolution was carried instructing the Home Missionary Committee to engage a State Evangelist, but it was found impossible to put the resolution into effect that year. The Conference of last year repeated the resolution, and the H.M. Committee invited the writer to undertake the work for twelve months ending at the beginning of September, 1905. The Fremantle church generously released him from his engagement there in order that the invitation might be accepted and the work taken up. The actual work of the State Evangelist commenced in October last, and continues until the present.

3. THE SUCCESS.

Little need be said under this heading, as the reports to be submitted to Conference

will speak. The ingathering of souls has not been so large as in 1902-3, but this may in part be accounted for by the fact that the fields were different, and not so much work previous to the special efforts had been done in the places helped this year. The church at Leederville has been considerably strengthened, several small churches have been cheered by visits, and a church has been organised at Collie which bids fair with proper attention to become very large and flourishing. The success met with has justified the effort and the expenditure.

4. CONTINUATION.

Is this work to end in September of this year, or is it to be continued? Almost all will agree that it ought to go on. If it is to be continued a new tent will have to be secured before next summer, and young men must be found willing to go out as evangelists and continue the work in the fields opened up by the State Evangelist, and these young men must be supported financially. This is the quickest and best method which has yet been found to establish churches and get a footing for primitive Christianity in new districts; this is an easy way to make churches, now depending upon help from the H.M. Committee, self-supporting. A church in every community and the evangelisation of the whole of the State with the simple gospel should be our aim, and in order to this there should be a continuation of the State work by somebody. Now is the time to move; every denomination that is established, and every one of the many modern religious delusions which is advocated in a district, make it harder for "the truth as it is in Jesus" to enter.

Let all the brethren become interested and pray unceasingly to God for his blessing, but

"Not prayers alone but offerings bring,
To aid the triumphs of our King."

There must be liberal giving, and there must be continuous giving, and there must be giving on the part of every member, if the work is to go on.

LIST OF MEETINGS

TO BE HELD IN LAKE-ST. CHAPEL.

Wednesday, April 19th, at 8 p.m., Temperance Demonstration.
Thursday, April 20th, at 8 p.m., Home Missionary Meeting.
Good Friday, April 21st, at 9.30 a.m., Devotional Meeting.
10.30 p.m., Business Session.
7.30 p.m., Home Mission Rally.
Saturday, April 22nd, 10 a.m., Conference Reassembles.
2.30 p.m., S.S.U. Conference.
7.30 p.m., S.S.U. Demonstration.
Sunday, April 23rd, 3.30, Conference Sermon by Lawson Campbell.
Monday, April 24th, Picnic by steamer to Point Walter.
Full particulars on programmes.

West Australian church secretaries are asked to distribute the extra copies of this Special Conference Number to families and members who are not already subscribers.

The Australian Christian

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

528 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

A. B. MASTON, Editor

Editorial Notes

*In fundamentals, Unity; in incidentals, Liberty;
in all things, Love.*

Conference Reports.

We want to say just here that our columns are open to reports of all our Conferences which will be held in some of the States during the approaching Easter holidays. To this offer, like all other good offers, there are certain conditions attached. The reports must reach us ready for the compositor; no "licking into shape" will be attempted. In the first place we have not the time or strength to do so; besides our experiences have taught us that this sort of thing can not be done by one unacquainted with the facts. The reports must be as brief as the importance of the work will allow. We do not want our space taken up in reporting something which has not been done. The reports must reach us promptly after the meetings are over. We are not publishers of ancient history. Our issue of April 27 will be largely taken up with Victorian Conference, May 4 with the Victorian Sisters' Conference, while our issue of May 11 will be open to the other Conferences as far as space will admit, and we expect all reports desiring a place in our columns for that issue to reach us by May 5. While we do not lay it down as a condition, we will here state that the most of our Conferences recognise that the publishing of their reports is a service rendered, and vote us some small amounts to help defray expenses.

W.A. Conference Reports.

Our W.A. brethren are again to the front with their Conference arrangements, and there is evidently no abatement of the enthusiasm which has hitherto characterised their mission work. The reports published in this issue are decidedly encouraging. There has been a substantial increase of church members and a distinct advance in contributions. The Home Mission Committee, encouraged by the liberality of the past, has decided to appeal for £1200 for the work of the coming year; while the work of the F.M. Committee has raised its standard to £200. These amounts may seem large for 1500 people to undertake in addition to the support of church evangelists, building expenses and other local responsibilities, but faith makes light of difficulties and our enterprising brethren in the West are thoroughly in earnest. Their anticipations of success in these appeals are therefore far from unreasonable, and twelve months hence we shall be

pleased to congratulate them on their realisation.

Missionary Faith and Cash.

In our Conferences there are generally to be found men of sterling common sense—practical hardheaded brethren, accustomed to view religious matters from a purely business standpoint. These can be depended on to restrain the more enthusiastic from hastily passing resolutions committing the Convention to the adoption of plans involving expenditure not expressly provided for. The argument that we should undertake no evangelistic work before the money needed is in hand, or at least in sight, appeals to our sense of commercial prudence as a sound business principle. But, after all, can our Conference work be conducted on the clear-cut financial lines on which our merchants are expected to transact their own business? When would the Baptists have entered India had those who encouraged Carey and his coadjutors to open the Mission field waited until all the money they required was in sight? How many times in our own Australian experience have Conference Committees successfully undertaken work which would have for ever remained undone had they waited till the requisite cash was promised! They walked by faith, not by sight. It is good to receive specific promises from churches and brethren that those who have the work in hand may have a definite foundation on which to build, and churches anxious to see the work prosper will not be slow to make such promises; but even with these a considerable margin must be left for the exercise of faith in God and his people. It is not always wise to neglect our open door until we see the means of permanently occupying the house. Let the brethren be in earnest and the means will soon be forthcoming.

West Australian members please take this copy of CHRISTIAN to Conference for reference to reports, etc.

A list of the meetings to be held in connection with Conference is published in another column.

Church secretaries are asked to advise the secretary in good time before the Conference, the names of the delegates who will represent the church.

From the Field

The field is the world.—Matt. 13 : 38

:O:

Tasmania

SULPHUR CREEK.—At the close of Bro. Howard's address last Sunday night an elderly lady and a young man decided for Christ, making a total of seven confessions since Bro. Howard commenced his mission. Others we hope to report very soon.

March 21.

A. R. TAYLOR.

PORT ESPERANCE.—Last Sunday two men were immersed, and in the evening we had a good meeting, the little chapel being full.

March 15.

A. J. PURVES.

Victoria

EAST SUBURBAN CO OPERATION.—Tent Fund: The churches of the group are falling into line in contributing fixed weekly amounts until the district tent be paid for. The additional sum of 7/- is thankfully acknowledged from the church at North Richmond, making a total of £11/3/6½ to date. Mission Work: Eleven nights' mission at Neptune-st., Burnley, resulted in fourteen confessions—eight male and six female converts. P. J. Pond was the missionary.

RICHMOND (Balmain-st.).—Fine meeting and one confession last night. This with the Neptune-st. mission gives us 107 confessions for the twelve months ending this month. Bible School rally has given an increase of 39 scholars for the month of March—22 blues and 17 reds. It is to run till the end of May.

March 27.

P. J. POND

MARYBOROUGH.—We held a harvest thanksgiving service to-night, when the building was suitably decorated and comfortably filled. We have with us at present Sister A. E. Stone, who is holding meetings for Bible study and also doing a deal of visiting among the members.

March 26.

W. R. B.

CARLTON (LYGON-ST.). On Lord's day morning we had a very nice meeting at the breaking of bread. Amongst the visiting brethren were several from the other States, including Bro. Johnson, jun., from Norwood, S.A.; Sister Ellen Tippet, returned from W.A.; also Bro. and Sister G. H. Browne, the former laboring with the church at Rookwood, N.S.W., and from whom we had an excellent address. In the evening Bro. Johnston discoursed to a good meeting upon "Man Seeking God." On Sunday night, at 6.30, we inaugurated a Lord's day evening prayer meeting, which will be held regularly at that hour.

Mar. 27.

J. McC.

BERWICK.—Another very successful harvest thanksgiving service and Sunday School anniversary was held last Sunday and Monday. The building was very tastefully decorated. Sunday morning and evening very successful meetings were held. Bro. Hayes of Dandenong being the speaker for both occasions. Monday night, which took the form of a social, quite came up to the usual. J. Richardson presided. Recitations and readings were well given by the children, while the singing, conducted by N. E. Meyer, was much appreciated. Bro. Hayes delivered an address which was much appreciated by old and young. A bountiful supply of tea and refreshments was handed round. Prizes were given to about 45 scholars.

March 27.

YANIPY TENT MISSION.—At the last Executive meeting held about two months ago, Bro. Leng, again eager for the fray, urged the advisability of holding a tent mission in the district before the date fixed for the local Conference. The two places that seemed to claim the attention of the Executive just then were—Wolsley, a small but busy little township within about eight miles of Bordertown; and Yanipy, a district about six miles from Kaniva. The matter being left with the evangelists, it was decided to attack Yanipy. The brethren were not so sanguine as to what the result would be, but our brother preacher, full of faith in the plea he put forth on behalf of God's well-beloved Son, went to the front; with the shield of faith covering his heart and the sword of the Spirit in his hand, he preached the old, old story for twenty-eight nights, having an undivided attention for the whole of the time of something like an average of one hundred hearers, and on some occa-

sions—for instance, Sunday nights—two hundred were present. We might say, as regards the good done by the effort, the half has never been told. Bro. Leng is a missionary, and as he stated at the local Conference last week, his work lies along these lines. The brethren have every confidence in him and stood by him right loyally. Bitter opposition was apparent the whole of the time, demonstrated by the frequent use of the question box; but I am quite sure some who put questions in would rather have been anywhere than in the tent when they were answered. The number of confessions was thirteen, all young men and women, and all within reach of the Kaniva church, which is a great consideration. To God be all the glory through Christ Jesus our Lord.

March 24th.

W. G. ORAM.

South Australia

MILANG.—Bro. Bennett being absent at Goolwa conducting special services, Jas. Manning preached here to-day. One young woman confessed her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

March 26.

HINDMARSH.—At the morning service we had a splendid address from A. C. Rankine. We believe that the powerful appeal made will inspire the brotherhood to greater things in the divine life. In the evening J. W. Cosh conducted the service. Donald Edwards was immersed during the week and was heartily welcomed into the church.

Mar. 26.

G. E. D.

PROSPECT.—The opening services were continued through the week. On March 21st tent mission thanksgiving. J. Anderson presided, and stirring addresses were given by Bren. Jackson, Dr. Verco, Manning, and the Chairman, while Bro. Ludbrook read a comprehensive report of the mission. On Thursday evening the opening tea and public meeting, when nearly 200 sat down to tea. The evening meeting was presided over by Dr. J. C. Verco. Greetings were read from a number of brethren from all parts of Australasia. After the report of the nearly 12 years' work, the Chairman introduced the subject of the evening, "The Church and its Establishment." Bro. Anderson spoke on "Its Name and its Creed." Bro. Huntsman retold the grand old story of the "Restoration," and Bro. Magarey spoke on "Its Work," "To edify and pass the message on." Bro. Ludbrook proposed the vote of thanks. On Friday a young people's social was held, when the programme was given by the Bands of Hope and Sunday Schools from Nth. Adelaide and Prospect. Altogether, our opening services have been a splendid success. This morning Bro. Penfold was received into fellowship, having been formerly baptised. To-night Bro. Gore preached to a large audience. Bro. Rankine has consented to conduct an extension of the mission for five nights. May the Lord bless his endeavors.

March 26.

J. C. W.

UNLEY.—The Sunday School anniversary was celebrated to day in favorable circumstances. T. J. Gore addressed the church in the morning, and the children were accommodated in the afternoon upon a spacious gallery which surmounted the platform, while their parents and friends occupied the body of the chapel. A service of song which had been arranged by the superintendent, entitled "Noah's Ark," was rendered with pleasing effect. The hymns were mostly old favorites, and they were linked together by appropriate comments and advice from J. Verco. F. Manning acted as conductor of the chorus, and Miss Olga Skache made an excellent organist. The

interest of the very little children was excited by the display of a model "ark," with about 200 animals. At night A. M. Ludbrook preached to a large congregation, and special music was provided. We regret to record the death of Miss Sarah Peacock, an old and faithful member. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to those devoted old Christian workers, W. Jones and his wife, on the death of their son Alfred, who was 45 years old and leaves a widow and family. He was a godly man, and he suffered acutely before the Lord called him.

March 27.

R. B.

GROTE-ST.—The chapel was well filled to-night, the service being especially for men. B. W. Huntsman gave a fine discourse on "The True Man." A male choir rendered special singing, which was much appreciated. One item was given by the quartette party. A. J. Gard deserves praise for his untiring efforts in the singing portion of our services.

Mar. 26.

E. R. M.

WILLIAMSTOWN.—The members of the mission band held their meeting last Thursday evening. J. Bain, jun., read a paper on Japan. Bro. and Sister G. Collins have gone to W.A., and Walter Stanley has gone to Pt. Pirie. We are sorry to part with these members. We held a church business meeting last Wednesday evening, when Bro. Warren was engaged for another year as our evangelist. This will be his third year amongst us.

March 24.

E. G. W.

PORT PIRIE.—The tent mission commenced here under very unfavorable weather conditions on Sunday last, hot winds carrying clouds of dust making things very uncomfortable. Just before starting our evening meeting, a cool change came, when the dust nuisance became more intensified; for a time it was impossible to see from one end of the tent to the other. Quite a number of people left the meeting, being in fear lest the tent collapsed. However we are thankful it did not. All things considered we had fair audiences; since then they have increased very largely, and are growing bigger every night. Bro. Pittman's stirring addresses are being favorably spoken of by outsiders, and the consequence is, many are drawn to our meetings who have never heard our plea before. The first confession was taken from a young man on Tuesday night. On Wednesday night a married woman came forward, and the following night two men and a woman confessed their faith in Jesus. The brethren are greatly rejoiced at the success of the mission so far, and are expectantly looking forward to hear many more publicly confess.

March 25.

W. C. O.

GOOLWA.—A tea and public meeting to celebrate the opening of our new meeting-house was held on Thursday night, when a large number of brethren and friends sat down to tea. Our brethren from Milang and Point Sturt chartered a steamer for the occasion and came down in great force to participate. There were also with us from Adelaide T. J. Gore and A. C. Rankine. An adjournment was made to the local Institute, in which the public meeting was held. Every seat in this commodious building was utilised. Bren. Gore, Rankine and Bennett delivered brief addresses. A. W. Pearce from Point Sturt ably occupied the chair and read greetings from sister churches. We are deeply grateful to the Milang and Port Sturt choir for their valued assistance. Miss M. K. Kemp presided at the piano. After the usual vote of thanks the meeting terminated with a hymn and the benediction. The whole day's proceedings were pronounced by all to be a success. Next Sunday Bro. Bennett from Milang will conduct the opening services and will continue with us, conduct-

ing a mission for a fortnight. We request the prayers of all the brethren, that God may bless this mission, that it may result in the salvation of many souls.

March 24.

J. M. GORDON.

BALAKLAVA.—The Conference of Northern Churches was held at Balaklava, on Wednesday. The meetings were well attended, and the proceedings throughout were enthusiastic and harmonious. R. J. Clow presided at the morning session, and H. J. Horsell read a paper upon "Methods of Soul Winning," which was well received and favorably commented upon. W. J. Marshman took the chair in the afternoon, when D. Thorpe read a paper upon "Parents in their Relation to Sunday School Work." The paper was voted a good one, as was B. W. Huntsman's essay upon "The Unity of Christians for which Jesus Prayed." Luncheon and public tea in the Institute Hall were well attended. The chapel was crowded in the evening, when W. T. S. Harris presided, and splendid addresses were delivered by G. B. Moysey, H. J. Horsell, and B. W. Huntsman.

March 24.

W. T. S. H.

New South Wales

PETERSHAM.—Last Lord's day morning we had the joy of receiving into fellowship 6 by faith and obedience and 1 by restoration. The afternoon meeting in the tent was devoted to the children, and an appeal on the subject of "What Kind of Character are you Building?" delivered by the missionary, A. E. Illingworth, was followed by a number of decisions from the ranks of the children, which was substantially augmented at the evening mission service. Fine congregations.

March 27.

C. J. L.

LISMORE.—Last Sunday night we had a very large meeting and three were baptised. At the close of the meeting Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Stratford came forward and made the confession. We are pleased to note the increasing interest in all our meetings, especially the gospel service.

March 21.

E. A. W.

New Zealand

PAHIATUA.—High water mark yesterday. Splendid meetings all day. Offerings over £4. Two adults made the good confession at the morning service. Bro. Hurst from Oamaru was present. The Bible School is still increasing. Six were baptised last night. At the close of the address another young man confessed Jesus. We are getting ready for another mission. To God be the glory.

March 13.

G. MANIFOLD.

SOUTH DUNEDIN.—The ten days' mission conducted by G. A. Gordon (reported in our last) was brought to a conclusion on Friday evening. A young woman made the good confession, and a brother signified his desire to be restored. Although the direct result is small, we think a greater interest has been created in the cause of primitive Christianity than hitherto. J. Bewley, from the Dunedin church, conducted the singing throughout.

March 19.

K. H. K.

Nearly Ready!
Austral Songs
Words and Music.

Here and There

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



If the Subscriber should discover a pencil mark in the above square, he will know that his Subscription is due and that our Agent would be glad of a Settlement.

One confession at Balaklava, S.A., R. J. Clow preaching.

We think that all can read the Endeavor Page this week. Read the last paragraph over twice.

We have received 5/- from Bro. Rometsch, of Swanston-st., for H. G. Harward's tent fund.

T. J. Doley continues to receive good reports of the progress of his son Ernest, who is in Bethany College.

Owing to the pressure on our space we have been compelled to hold over our Leader and other matter.

We understand that W. C. Morro is soon to join the teaching staff of the Bible College in Kentucky University.

W. Morrow, who left Australia some weeks ago for England via America, reports a pleasant trip as far as Honolulu, from which point the last word comes.

Several of the best speakers in the Hindmarsh church made their first attempt at the Lord's day morning school, under superintendent T. H. Brooker.

We are asked to draw the attention of the sisters to Coming Events notice of special meeting to be held in Swanston-st. lecture hall, on Tuesday evening next (4th) at 8 p.m.

On February 26th Bro. Price addressed the Spring Grove (N.Z.) church in the morning and preached the gospel at Wai-iti in the evening, both meetings being largely attended.

Bro. and Sister Jas. T. Hunter and son, of Wellington, N.Z., are on a visit to their home folks in Sydney. They left Wellington in the s.s. Warimoo on Saturday, March 18th.

Bro. and Sister Vedell, from St. Louis, U.S.A., Bro. and Sister Leane, from Adelaide, and Bro. and Sister J. T. Hunter, from Wellington, N.Z., were present at Enmore on Sunday last.

The prayers of the brethren everywhere are asked on behalf of the tent mission to be held at Ascot Vale by Bren. Harward and Pittman, commencing April 30th, immediately after Conference.

J. G. Price, from N.S.W., and J. J. Franklyn, from Nelson, have been holding a mission at Takaka, N.Z. Bro. Price will continue his labors among the Takaka, Mouere, Stanley Brook and Tadmor churches.

On February 24th a welcome social was given Bro. Price, from N.S.W. Brethren from Nelson, Spring Grove, Wai-iti, Mouere and Stanley Brook churches met together at Spring Grove, a very pleasant time being spent.

The Burwood Boys' Home Dorcas rally will be held on Wednesday next (5th), at Swanston-st. lecture hall, from 10 a.m. All sisters invited. This will be the last Dorcas meeting prior to Conference. A full attendance is requested.

The Wellington (N.Z.) Town Hall was consecrated to the great cause of temperance on Sunday evening, March 12th, when representatives of the Methodist Church (under the auspices of the Conference in co-

operation with the New Zealand Alliance) delivered hopeful and telling speeches in favor of the no-license movement.

The Treasurer of the Tasmanian Home Missionary Committee desires to acknowledge with thanks the undermentioned amounts towards the funds:—Church, Bream Creek, £5; Mite Boxes—Sister J. Adams, sen., 6/3; F.C., 6/6; G.S., 11/3.

As we go to press the following telegram reaches us from Port Pirie, S.A., where F. Pittman is conducting a tent mission:—"Favorable weather. Tent mission congregations increasing. Nine confessions to date.—W. C. OVERLAND."

After nearly seven years of active service as church secretary, A. W. Shearston resigned from his duties in connection with that office in the church at Paddington, Sydney. R. K. Whately of "Swansea," Edward-st., Woollahra, has been appointed to that position.

James Knapp, of Spring Grove, N.Z., who arrived in the Colony in 1842, passed away on February 27th at the age of eighty-five years. He leaves a widow aged eighty-one years, and eight children, four of whom are members of the church. Edward Lewis conducted the service at the grave.

H. G. Harward acknowledges the following for tent fund:—Sister, Sale, 10/-; Bro. Styles, Moe, 5/-; W. McCance, Harcourt, 5/-; Endeavor Societies, per Miss Walker, £2/10/-; Church, Pakenham, £1/5/-; Dandenong, 3/6; E.B.F., 2/6; H. G. Harward, £1; Sister, Prahran, 2/6; Ben Lockwood, Lancefield, 5/-; A. L. Crichton, additional contribution, £3; on Old Tent, £6.

The twelfth Annual Conference of the churches in Tasmania will be held in the Christians' chapel, Hobart, commencing Thursday, April 20th, and continuing to Monday, 24th. Church secretaries are reminded to at once forward their returns to the Conference Secretary. It is also requested that all brethren having mite boxes in their possession bring or forward contents of same to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

We have just published the following four-page tracts. When ordering, give the number, not the name. This will help us and save you trouble. 146, A Valuable Pearl; 147, Conversion of a Cabinet Officer; 148, How to be Certain of Forgiveness; 149, How to be Saved; 150, Reply to a Baptist Critic; 151, The Present State of Christianity; 152, The Dangers of the Theatre; 153, Uncle Robert on Card Playing; 154, What is Saving Faith? 155, Why I am Identified with the Religious People known as the Disciples of Christ.

A complimentary concert was tendered to Miss Ettie Kingsbury in the Enmore Tabernacle, on Friday night last. The building was crowded with an enthusiastic audience. A good programme was provided, and during the evening a presentation was made to Sister Kingsbury from the church and the school, as an appreciative token of her faithful services. Miss Kingsbury is to be married on Tuesday to Mr. F. S. Steer, and her future home is in Launceston. She has been for nearly 11 years organist of the Enmore church.

The following description of the new chapel at Prospect, S.A., is from the Register:—"The building is situated on the Prospect-rd., about three miles from the G.P.O., Adelaide. The Prospect tram passes the door. It is a stone building with cement facings, and is in the Gothic style. The auditorium is 50ft. long, 32ft. wide, 25ft. high, with platform and baptistry. It will seat nearly 300 persons. The ceiling is of light wood, panelled and bracketed.

The place is well lighted and ventilated. The windows have lifting sashes, and are glazed with rough plate. At the rear is a large vestry subdivided by folding doors. Altogether the building architecturally is a distinct acquisition to the district."

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" N. Carlton	..	0	10 0
" Middle Park	..	0	10 0
" Dandenong	..	0	10 0
" Lillimur	..	0	10 0
" Cosgrove	..	0	10 0
" Croydon	..	0	10 0
" Warragul	..	0	10 0
" Kaniva	..	1	0 0
" Swanston-st.	..	2	0 0
" Port Fairy	..	0	10 0
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" Warmur West (Bren. J. Everett and Chivell)	..	11	10 0
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" N. Yanac	..	0	17 3
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" Bordertown	..	7	10 0
" Horsham	..	1	0 0
" Brunswick, col. by Sister Lochhead	..	2	15 3
" Hawthorn, per Sister Judd	..	1	0 0
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" Sister Bosworth, Brighton	..	1	0 0
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Prahran Sisters	..	0	4 0
Sister Enderby	..	0	7 6
Sister Mrs. Somerville, Hawthorn	..	1	0 0
Dr. James Cook, Bendigo	..	5	15 0
Campbell Edwards, Hawthorn	..	21	0 0
A. B. Maston, Swanston-st.	..	2	0 0
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Coming Events

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

APRIL 3.—East Suburban Co-operation. Conference for deepening spiritual life, at Christians' Chapel, Coppin-st., North Richmond. Interesting address and discussion, 8 p.m. each night. Special singing. Sisters' Conference, Wednesday, April 5, at 3 p.m.

APRIL 4.—A special meeting of sisters will be held in the Lecture Hall, Swanston-st. Chapel, on Tuesday evening, April 4th, at 8 o'clock, to make final arrangements for the General Conference. All sisters interested cordially welcome. We need your help.

WANTED.

WAITRESSES; vacancies for a few experienced. Apply by letter to A. L. Crichton, Masonic Hall, Collins-st., City. For Eight Hours Day, April 10th, at Exhibition.

Furnished Rooms wanted. Apply Mrs. H. G. Harward, "Gwendoline," Chavasse-st., Middle Brighton.

Wanted—a Girl about 14 or 15 years old, assist in shop and house work. Must be a member of the church. At once. Apply X.Y.Z., 167 Victoria-av., Albert Park.

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"For Christ and the Church" Conducted by A. R. Main

139 BUCKLEY ST., FOOTSCRAY.

Glorifying God in our Recreations.

1 Cor. 10: 31; Psa. 16: 5-11.

Topic for April 17.

LET everyone speak. Surely all can, if the abundance of the heart guarantees capability. People dumb on every other subject have been known to wax eloquent on golf, cricket, boating, reading, or whatever their recreation may be. Though in some respects most simple, yet this week's subject is otherwise a difficult one. What are legitimate Christian recreations? The general answer is easy: those in which we may glorify God, *i.e.*, better fit ourselves for his service. When you come to classify the particular recreations as lawful and unlawful, look out! To adapt an old aphorism, we are ready to compound for games we are inclined to by damning those we have no mind to. The legitimate ones are mine, the unlawful are yours!

Recreation is good and indeed absolutely necessary if we are to do our best work. There is a beautiful tradition concerning the Apostle John, whose point does not depend upon our vouching for its truth. In his hours of rest and recreation, the apostle used to amuse himself by playing with a tame partridge. A young hunter, who came to see him, was so surprised and so disapproved of his occupation that he doubted whether it could be the last survivor of the apostles. "What is that thing which thou carriest in thy hand?" asked John. "A bow," answered the hunter. "Why then is it unstrung?" "Because," said the youth, "were I to keep it always strung it would lose its spring, and become useless." "Even so," replied the aged apostle, "be not offended at this my brief relaxation, which prevents my spirits from waxing faint." The day for decrying amusements or athletic exercises as though unbecoming Christians has gone by. How quaint it now seems that the saintly Fletcher should gravely find cause for heart-searching and fear of undue carnality in his enjoyment of the beauty of the Rhine scenery! There may still be a few who "think that to be spiritual you must not be natural." You can tell unsparing detractors that to play at games, say cricket or tennis, is at least as harmless a recreation as to growl at other people for playing—and it advances the cause of Christ just as much.

Three good tests.—"Do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10: 31). Apply this principle to your recreations. In Col. 3: 17 is inferred a good test of our actions—"in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father." It is not universally true, but it will generally happen that the recreations for which you from the heart thank God will be of a kind not to hinder but to help your Christian life. Peter's "that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Pet. 3: 7) is another qualification.

Let us see what the statement that we must glorify God in our recreations implies. Just a few considerations can now be given.

Manifestly, there must be nothing essentially sinful in that which we regard as our recreation.

You can never glorify God in any action that in itself is wrong, out of harmony with the Spirit of Christ.

Things right in themselves may be wrong to you. Associations may make them so. Readers of reports of the current Welsh revival will have noticed that one of the results is that hundreds have given up football. The explanation is that in recent years the young men had gone mad over it, and "the games were invariably accompanied with drinking, swearing, and viciousness generally." A game that leads you to associate with bad companions cannot well be for God's glory; rather, "Go with the wolves and you will learn to howl." You must not let recreation lead you into associations that may mar your influence for good.

There must not be too much indulgence in a thing right in itself. It might be right for you to give a little time, and absolutely sinful for you to give a lot of time to a certain sport. If you let recreation time encroach on duty time it is not to God's glory. "He that spends his time in sports, and calls it recreation, is like him whose garment is all fringes, and his meat nothing but sauces; they are healthless, changeable, and useless." If you are so busy footballing on Saturday that you are too tired to get to the Lord's table on Sunday, you are guilty of sin. What makes you neglect God's work or God's church is not pleasing to him. So with money as with time. It pays to spend money on recreation; it is ruin to so spend on recreation that we encroach on that which is properly due to help the work of God. The exact proportion, of course, I do not profess to settle. But put it this way: I have a very strong belief that it approaches a sin to spend one shilling on cricket on Saturday afternoon and put threepence in the collection-box on Sunday morning. Tell us what you think at the meeting!

Recreation must be true to its name: it must refresh, revive, invigorate the mind or system—in a word, re-create. It must leave us better fitted for work. Dugald Stewart's youth who spent fifteen years trying to balance a broomstick on his nose simply wasted his time. Remember too, as the Emperor William of Germany said, "Change of work is the healthiest and best recreation." It must be enforced that recreation of any kind is not an end in itself. Life is for serious ends. Do not, then, make a business of recreation. Bishop Hall has some wise words that fit in here: "Recreation is intended to the mind, as whetting is to the scythe, to sharpen the edge of it, which otherwise would grow dull and blunt. He, therefore, that spends his whole time in recreation is ever whetting, never mowing; his grass may grow and his steed starve: or, contrarily, he that always toils and never recreates, is ever mowing, never whetting, laboring much to little purpose. As good no scythe as no edge. Then only can the work go forward, when the scythe is so seasonably and moderately whetted that it may cut, and so cut that it may have the help of sharpening."

A sense of proportion is one of the greatest needs of most people. Our life should be a harmonious

whole. We should put first things first—let everything come in its proper order. In order of importance things should receive of our attention and time. If we will only do this and cultivate the whole man, that most troublous question of amusement and recreation would be for ever settled. Man is not all body, not all soul, not all spirit. Let us be fed all round, exercised all round. Develop no one part of your nature at the expense of, or out of proportion to, the other parts. "Cultivate the physical *exclusively* and you have an athlete or a savage; the moral *only*, and you have an enthusiast, a fanatic, or even a maniac; the intellectual *only*, and you have a diseased oddity—it may be a monster. It is only by training *all* together—physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual—that the *complete man* may be found." Remember Dickens' Skitzlanders, who were born with every limb perfect but at a certain age all unused portions of the body fell away. All that remained of some were a pair of eyes and a bundle of nerves; of others, a head without a heart, or the bump of acquisitiveness alone survived. Few in Skitzland were perfect in body. A well-developed muscle is a good thing to have, especially when you are stuck up in the way, but a man might have reasonable pride in his unexceptionable biceps and yet fall far short of being a good all-round man. Those recreations which help us to attain to 1 Thess. 5: 23 (body, soul and spirit preserved entire) are such as glorify God.

Another thing: avoid recreations which are doubtful; shun even those you think to be right but which approach close to the border line between lawful and unlawful. It is an apostolic word that we are not to use the world to the full (1 Cor. 7: 31, R.V. margin)—*i.e.*, do not merely do nothing wrong, but do not insist in enjoying to the fullest things right. To be sure your recreations will not lead to God's name being dishonored, leave big margins.

I will let C. Sylvester Horne have the closing word: "There is one thing, and one only, that will sanctify and hallow the culture, and develop the physical, as well as the moral and spiritual life, and that is the great Christian motto: 'For Christ's sake.' . . . Why was it that Keith Falconer wanted to excel as a cyclist, and became the finest amateur cyclist in the kingdom? Because he was set upon getting that physical power which should stand him in good stead when he stood in the fever-stricken haunts of Aden as a missionary. Why was it that Charles Studd and Stanley Smith resolved to excel with bat and oar at Cambridge a few years ago? In order that they might get physical skill and power that should enable them to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ out there in the centre of China. What is it Paul says to you? 'Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.' That is our ideal—to God for Christ's sake. Every speed of foot, every flash of thought, every skill of hand, every note of music, every power of the literary gift, whatever it is—physical, moral, spiritual—all for Christ."

Thoughts.

Amusements to virtue are like breezes of air to the flame—gentle ones will fan it, but strong ones will put it out.—David Thomas.

Sweet recreation barr'd, what doth ensue
But moody and dull melancholy,
Kinsman to grim and comfortless despair;
And at their heels a huge infectious troop
Of pale distemperatures and foes to life?

—Shakspeare.

Would you judge of the lawfulness or the unlawfulness of a pleasure, take this rule: whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind—that thing to you is sin.—Letter to John Wesley from his mother.

Acknowledgments.

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

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JANUARY, 1905.

Martin L., Apollo Bay	0	6	3
Tozer, J. L.	0	13	0
Miss Jeans, Collector	14	2	4
Miss Gleeson	17	5	0
Miss Manton	5	1	1
Mrs. Cust	0	7	6
Mr. Jas. King	1	1	1
Cash Sales	0	5	6

FEBRUARY.

Miss Manton, Collector	13	17	5
Church of Christ S.S., South Yarra	1	0	4
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" Greymouth, N.Z.	2	10	0
Christian Helper	1	0	0
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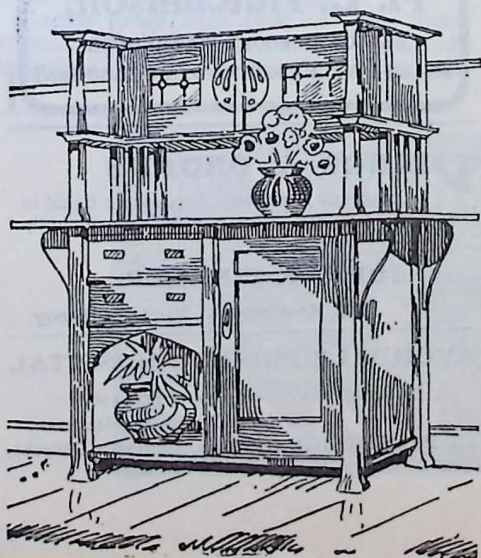
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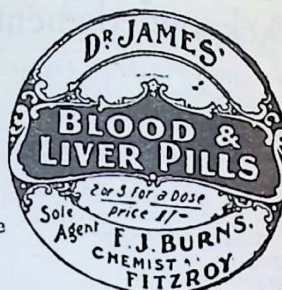
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Rachel Sylvestre

A Story of
the Pioneers

Jessie Brown Pounds

CHAPTER XII.

CAST ADRIFT.

It became known in the neighborhood that Stephen was going away, and that he would speak only once more in the schoolhouse. He was a favorite among the young folks, as he had always been, and they all came out to hear him. Not half of those who came could be seated on the benches. The rest stood up and leaned against the log walls.

Father had grumbled a good deal when he found that Stephen was to leave him again, and in the busy time of the year, but we all knew about how seriously to take father's grumbling. He was proud of Stephen, and he believed the new doctrine with all his heart. So he was really pleased to know that his boy was going to a larger life than he had known among us.

To-night he and mother sat near the front, and would not look at each other or at Stephen. In those days parents were much afraid of spoiling their children by showing pride in them.

Martha came to the meeting late, and seemed to be alone. I thought she looked very pale and anxious. But oh, how beautiful she was! I heard a shrewd person say only yesterday of Maude Arrondale (the young aunt of Sylvestre Arrondale the Fourth) that she cheapened the looks of every other woman when she entered a parlor. But the Maude Arrondale of to-day would be as moonlight to mid-day beside the Martha Sylvestre who sat opposite me on that evening long ago.

I am ashamed to say I cannot remember what Stephen preached about that night. I know he was in earnest, and that he swayed the people as he would. I remember I thought what a strange thing it was that he, who had always been so sensible and staid, could be so taken up with mere doctrines as to be quite lifted out of himself. For the rest, I was thinking of other things than the sermon—of Rachel, especially, and her unkind treatment of Stephen.

Martha never once took her eyes from Stephen's face. Her chin was set hard, and for almost the first time I saw she could look

like Rachel. When the invitation was given for those who wanted to stand for the New Testament order of things to come forward, Martha started at once and walked to the front seat. She looked quiet and determined then, but in a moment she gave way and fell into a passion of sobs.

Stephen's quiet voice seemed to soothe her, and she stood up bravely before all the people, and said she believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I have heard that confession thousands of times since, but it has never stirred my heart as it did that night. I was a careless lad, and a moment before the great truths of revelation had had little meaning for me; but just then I seemed to realise what is meant by a surrender to the authority of the divine Saviour.

After the meeting the women gathered about Martha and kissed and cuddled her, as good women love to cuddle a sweet, motherless young creature. Then rude torches were brought out, and we hastily fell into line for a march to the baptismal water. It was a weird sight—the long, wavering line of men and women, a face here and there lighted by the flicker of a torch.

Someone broke into a song, and in a moment many voices took up the refrain:

"How happy are they
Who their Saviour obey."

I was near the end of the procession when we stopped at Blue Brook, lining up along the banks and on the bridge. Oddly enough, as it seemed to me, the spot chosen for the baptism was just below that where, when we were all children, Stephen and I first saw

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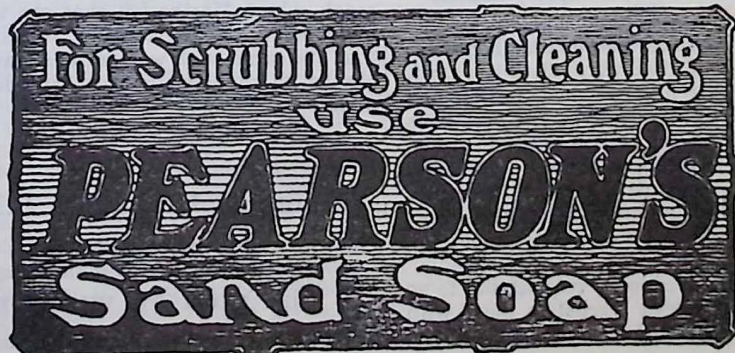
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the Sylvestre girls. I smiled now at the memory of that day, remembering how Rachel had insisted on wading, while Martha had allowed Stephen to carry her across.

Stephen and Martha were already standing in the water when I came up. The light of a torch fell upon them, and I thought then, as I think now, that I had never seen two nobler faces.

"I baptise thee into the Name"—never had the sacred words seemed to mean as much.

After the baptism, the people crowded up to shake hands with Stephen, expressing regret at his leaving us, and wishes for his happiness elsewhere. I think the heartiness of their manner surprised him, for he was ever inclined to think poorly of himself.

"I shall come back soon," he told me, as we walked home together. "A little church might soon be gathered together here from among those who are tired of party creeds and names. Here, as everywhere, people are hungry for the gospel. They desire salvation, but they know not how to seek it."

"I wonder what Colonel Sylvestre will say to Martha?" I remarked.

"Poor little girl!" said Stephen, in a tone of compassion. "I fear she has a sorry time ahead of her. But I know her nature, and I feel sure she will not shrink."

We had much to say and do that night, for Stephen was to leave us in the early morning. It was past eleven o'clock when we retired, and we were but just in bed when we heard a frightened voice calling:

"Mrs. Arrondale! Oh, Mrs. Arrondale!"

I heard my mother rise quickly and open the door. She was in such demand as a nurse that I doubted not it was some sudden illness in the neighborhood which called for her presence. But for some time I heard low voices in the kitchen; then mother came to the door and spoke very softly to Stephen and me.

"Colonel Sylvestre has turned Martha out of doors," she said, "and she has sought a

refuge here. I thought it best to tell you, so you need not seem surprised when you see her in the morning. Do not answer me—it will be better for her not to hear us talking. Only"—even in a whisper mother's voice betrayed her excitement—"slip away very quietly in the morning, Stephen. The Colonel threatens to horsewhip you if he gets a chance."

Mother slipped downstairs again, but for a long time Stephen and I talked under our breath of the dreadful thing that had happened. It seemed incredible that a father who was as indulgent as Colonel Sylvestre usually showed himself to be should be so utterly cruel in dealing with his daughter's religious feelings, especially a daughter as obedient and gentle as Martha had always been.

"If it had been Rachel," I began. But Stephen loyally reminded me that Rachel, too, was a most dutiful daughter.

"But why did Rachel let her father cast Martha off?" I demanded.

"You will find that Rachel knows nothing about it," he insisted. "She is not always gentle, but she always tries to be just. And her influence over her father is very great."

Next day, after we had said good-bye to Stephen, my mother told me the whole story. Martha had again and again asked her father for permission to be baptised, and had always received a peremptory refusal.

"Religion is simply childishness," he told her once. "The race had its childhood. It began with gods that were close at hand, and by degrees it has put them farther and farther away, until now even the credulous believe only in a remote Being, to be turned to only in the extremities of life. The really intellectual have no use whatever for such a being. You, my daughter, should have come out of the childishness of credulity long before this."

Martha persevered in her request, but to no purpose. She begged Rachel to plead with her father, but this the elder sister refused to do.

"You will think differently about these things when you are older," said Rachel. "These persons play upon your feelings and lead you to imagine all kinds of painful things. Try to forget it all, my little one."

I do not think it ever occurred either to Rachel or her father that Martha might finally act in opposition to the wishes of her family. They were so accustomed to her gentle obedience that they anticipated nothing else. They little dreamed of what such natures are capable. The fires of martyrdom have been lighted for women of Martha's type.

Rachel had left home on the previous day for a visit with a friend who lived five or six miles distant. Martha fancied that she chose this time purposely, not wishing to show sufficient interest in the meeting to attend it, and scarcely daring to absent herself without an excuse. This seemed highly probable to me, knowing what had passed between her and Stephen.

When Martha returned from the meeting, in company with some of the good women who had assisted at her baptism, she was surprised to find her father still up. She learned afterward that Ross Turner, bent on mischief, as usual, had stopped and told the story of her disobedience.

Martha said good-night to her friends, slipped into the house, and went straight to her father.

"I have come to tell you what I have done, father."

He felt her damp hair for confirmation of what he had heard. Then he pushed her from him.

"I have heard," he said. "You have disobeyed your father. When a child of mine disobeys, she ceases to belong to me. Go back to your ranting, hymn-singing crew. Go back and ask them if they put disobedience to parents among the cardinal virtues. Go back to them—your place is no longer here."

I am sure that, in his coarse rage, he said other things which her daughterly loyalty and her maidenly reserve forbade her telling. I am sure that, in some rude way, he accused her of a liking for either Stephen or myself. This I judge from what I saw afterwards.

"You do not mean that you are sending me away from home?" asked Martha, in amazement.

"Have I not made it plain? You shall not sleep another night under this roof. I tell you, I am done with you—do you hear me?"

There was no house but ours within her reach, where Martha felt that she would be understood and welcomed. Thus it was that she came, with wet hair and tear-stained cheeks, to the door of the Arrondales that night.

(To be continued.)

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