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VICTORIAN CONFERENCE

1905

The Annual Conference of the churches of Christ in Victoria commenced its meetings on Friday, April 21st, in the Christians' chapel, Lygon-street, Carlton. At 9.30 a.m. the proceedings were opened by a devotional meeting conducted by E. J. Waters. T. J. Cook gave a short address on "Workers together with God."

At 10 a.m. the President, Dr. James Cook, took the chair, after which the congregation joined in singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name," and P. J. Pond led the meeting in prayer.

The minutes of the previous Annual Conference were read and adopted.

The roll of representatives was then called, when the following brethren were found to be present:—

ASCOT VALE—G. P. Pittman, W. Brown, J. Potts.
BENDIGO AND GOLDEN SQUARE—Dr. Jas. Cook, C. A. Quick, T. Eames.
BET BET—F. W. Martin.
BERWICK—Wm. Wilson, J. Richardson.
BRIGHTON—W. Brochie, F. M. Ludbrook, T. R. Morris.
BRIM—W. W. White.
BRUNSWICK—J. H. Barnden, R. McSolvin, W. Hardie.
BAYSWATER—W. Schultz, T. Clements.
BORDER TOWN (S.A.)—C. S. Wylie, R. Lyall.
BLACKBURN—W. Peirce, W. Redman.
BARKER'S CREEK—W. McCance.
CARLTON (Lygon-st.)—Jas. Johnston, M.A., W. C. Craigie, W. C. Thurgood, F. Payne, J. McColl.
CARLTON NORTH—A. L. Gibson, J. Stewart.
COLLINGWOOD—O. A. Carr Green, B. Cox.
CHELTENHAM—W. Judd, E. T. Penny, G. Organ.
CASTLEMAINE—A. W. Connor, — Upstill.
COSGROVE—J. C. Skinner.
CAREW (S.A.)—W. G. Oram.
CROYDEN—C. J. Hembrow, P. Jenkins.
DANDENONG—W. B. Hayes, H. W. Crisp.
DONCASTER—H. D. Smith, F. Smedley, Geo. Petty.
DRUMMOND—E. J. Allan.
EMERALD—E. Edwards, W. Bolduan.
ECHUCA—T. G. Mason.
FITZROY—H. Swain, J. McGregor, J. Walker, C. W. Mitchell.
FITZROY NORTH AND NORTHCOTE—W. Forbes, T. Gole, J. Woodbridge, T. H. Cowley, — Oliver.
FAIRFIELD PARK—W. Hunter.
FOOTSCRAY—J. Davidson, H. Carter.
GALAQUIL—E. W. Pittman.
HAWTHORN—W. H. Bardwell, W. Finger, W. Hunter.
KANIVA—H. Leng, L. McCallum, B. J. Kemp.
KYABRAM—Percy Bryce, A. B. Maston.
LANCEFIELD—John Tully.

LILLIMUR—C. E. Daniels.
LAKE ROWAN—M. McLellan.
MELBOURNE (Swan-st.)—J. T. T. Harding, A. Meldrum, F. G. Dunn, B. Huntsman.
MELBOURNE NORTH—M. Dale, R. McCance, J. G. Barrett.
MELBOURNE SOUTH—T. Smith, — Webster.
MARYBOROUGH—W. Burgess.
MOOROOLBARK—D. Dirling, R. Langley.
MAIDVALE—J. Clydesdale.
MIDDLE PARK—W. Meekison, J. S. McIntosh.
NEWMARKET—F. W. Greenwood, W. Alford.
PAKENHAM—S. B. Stephenson.
PRAHRAN—J. Pittman, S. H. Pittman, J. W. McCallum, E. F. Ryall.
PORT FAIRY—J. Gray.
PRESTON—W. Dickens, O. Walker.
RICHMOND NORTH—J. Salisbury, T. Darnley, J. Collins, — Harding, — Maud.
RICHMOND SOUTH—W. F. Fenn, — Sumpton, P. J. Pond, C. Cousins.
SHEPPARTON—J. W. Parslow.
SOUTH YARRA—D. A. Lewis, E. J. Waters, — Eaton.
ST. KILDA—Morrison, — Barnett.
SURREY HILLS—J. Greenhill, J. Holten.
ST. ARNAUD—R. G. Cameron, A. Millis.
TARADALE—Jas. Jackel.
TERANG—W. McArthur, H. G. Harward.
WARMUR WEST—T. J. Cook.
WARRAGUL—R. W. Judd, — Harris.
WILLIAMSTOWN—Hall, — Hopkins.
WEDDERBURN—C. McDonald.

The following churches applied for admission into the Conference, namely, Middle Park, St. Arnaud, Terang and Blackburn. On the motion of T. M. Hall their admission was agreed to.

Letters of congratulation were read from New South Wales, Queensland, West Australia, Tasmania, Australian students at Lexington, U.S.A., and T. J. Gore, President of the South Australian Conference.

Visitors from the various States were welcomed by the President. Bros. Hunter, President of the N.S.W. Conference, P. A. Dickson, J. Inglis Wright of N.Z., and Barrett of Pretoria, South Africa, briefly responded to the words of welcome.

The President of the Conference having stated that Chas. Johnson, of Corowa, New South Wales, was seriously ill, it was resolved on the motion of H. G. Harward that a letter of sympathy be sent to him.

At this stage, at the suggestion of the Chairman, prayer was offered for the success of all the Conferences meeting simulta-

neously with ourselves. F. McClean and J. Johnston led the prayers of the Conference.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Dr. James Cook thanked the brotherhood for having appointed him at their last meeting to the position of President, which appointment he regarded as being done in honor of the country brethren. Though living at a distance from Melbourne, he had done his best to discharge his responsibilities, and in doing so he had been well supported by his colleagues. They had met that morning to encourage each other in the work of the Lord, and he hoped that such steps would be taken in planning future work that a great impetus would be given to the cause of Christ. He thought that they had reason to be encouraged by the success which had attended their labors throughout the year. Though he did not attach much importance to statistics, yet it was satisfactory to find that as far as they were concerned they showed a fair amount of progress, more particularly so when compared with those of some larger religious organisations. From all the signs around him he looked hopefully into the future, and expected greater things for ourselves and the making of greater progress of the truth throughout Christendom. Whatever success we had met with was owing to the fact that we had stood upon the impregnable word of truth. He would exhort all to preach the gospel by their consecrated lives. If we did this our mission would become a glorious victory.

The consideration of the various reports was then proceeded with, and it was decided on the motion of J. T. T. Harding to take them as read.

Executive Committee's Report.

I. LETTER FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

A letter has been received from the British Conference, in response to one sent by Bro. W. A. Kemp on his recent visit to Great Britain. The following extracts are from the letter:—

"We have received with great satisfaction renewed evidence of your fraternal interest in the proceedings of our Annual Conference, as manifested by the valued letter received by the hands of your esteemed Bro. W. A. Kemp. . . . It is with sincere joy that we avail ourselves of the privilege of reciprocating the fraternal sentiments expressed in your letter. Though sundered far in matter of distance, we rejoice in every opportunity of personal intercourse between your members and ours, but we rejoice much more in that

bond which unites us in Christ, which makes us one in present aims and blessed hopes."

This letter was signed by

JAMES ANDERSON, Chairman.
GEO. PAYNE } Secretaries.
STEPHEN LUDBROOK }

This clause was spoken to by W. A. Kemp, who expressed gratification for the kind reception he had received from the brethren on the occasion of his visit to England.

2. SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

We are again under obligation to the Sisters' Conference for the very valuable aid rendered during the year. They have materially aided in keeping alive the interest in missions by holding meetings in a number of churches during the year, and also by having quarterly social meetings for the sister collectors. Altogether the sum of £265 has this year been added to the Home Mission fund through the instrumentality of the sisters. In September last, when there was a large overdraft in the H.M. fund, the sisters very kindly held a re-union of church members, which took the form of a tea, followed by a missionary meeting. This proved a great success, and resulted in the sum of £102/14/3 being obtained for the Home Mission fund. This is included in the total of £265; so also is £57/2/8 contributed in the mite boxes. The Sisters' Executive deserve the best thanks of the Conference for their untiring zeal in the Master's work in furthering not only the spiritual welfare of the church, but through their Dorcas and kindred societies rendering material help to the Burwood Boys' Home and to many who unfortunately required such aid.

On the motion of H. Swain, seconded by W. C. Craigie, this clause was adopted, and the best thanks of the Conference were tendered to the sisters for their valuable assistance.

3. FINANCES.

We are pleased to be able to submit a report with a credit balance of £67/19/7 to 31st March. Since closing accounts for audit this balance has increased to £95, but the current month's expenditure amounting to £120 being almost due leaves a debit balance of £25.

The year has not been without some anxiety as to finances. The Treasurer is entitled to our thanks for his practical aid during the year.

In entering upon work of this kind wherein the co-operation of the brotherhood is expected there is need for great exercise of faith; and we are pleased to say that the members have responded nobly when required. Again, some of the country churches are unable to contribute their promised amounts until harvest is over; but to their credit be it said they do not lose much time in sending on as soon as they are in funds.

The expenses have been slightly greater this year owing to the purchase of a new tent costing £89. Towards this amount Bro. Harward collected between £50 and £60.

With regard to the annual collection, we have been somewhat disappointed. Last year's collection amounted to £364, and the Committee thought they would be justified in asking for £400, which they did. The total has only reached £307—a decrease of £57. While thanking the churches for their practical co-operation, we earnestly hope that the coming year may show a still greater interest in the progress of the gospel throughout this State.

On the motion of C. W. Mitchell, seconded by R. Lyall, the clause relating to finances, with the balance sheets connected therewith, was adopted.

R. Lyall, in speaking to the question of finances, pointed out that though the finances were satisfactory, the average of contributions had fallen off since 1903.

W. C. Craigie made special reference to the valuable assistance rendered by the sisters.

P. J. Pond and J. Clydesdale also spoke to the motion.

4. W. W. DAVEY FUND.

We are pleased to be able to report that our Treasurer (Bro. Craigie) has been enabled through the generosity of the brethren to continue the payment of 10/- per week to our esteemed Bro. W. W. Davey, who is still in need of assistance. The total amount contributed to this fund is £52/8/3; expenditure, £54/2/-; leaving the sum of £1/13/9 due to the Treasurer.

A. B. Maston moved the adoption of this clause, and appealed to the brotherhood for a continuance of their support. This was seconded by W. C. Craigie, who stated that Bro. and Sister Davey were very grateful for the aid rendered, and he hoped that the brotherhood would not forget their aged brother and sister.

5. COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

The Administrative Committee begs leaves to report as follows:—

1. The number of students enrolled for 1904 was 127, the largest enrolment since the College was organised.

2. The money received by the Treasurer for fees was £36/4/6. £36 was paid for rent. After meeting all other expenses we still have a balance in hand.

3. The University High School premises have again been secured for 1905, at the same rental, £30 per annum for four nights per week.

4. The work done for 1904 has been most satisfactory, 70% of the students passing in their examinations.

5. The work catalogued has now reached its high-water mark as far as the present opportunities for class work will allow.

6. The thanks of the Committee are due to the teachers, who as in previous years have done their work nobly and well. This has been done under great sacrifice, and with no remuneration. Bren Jos. Pittman and Percy Pittman are still on the staff, while J. W. McCallum has been added in place of A. R. Main, who had to resign owing to pressure of work.

7. The annual demonstration took place as usual, followed by the Baccalaureate sermon, preached by Bro. H. D. Smith, a former teacher. Both performances were of a high order.

8. During the year Sister J. A. Davies presented the College with a complete set of up-to-date Bible-land maps. These came as a great boon and are much valued, as they are indispensable in the study of Bible history and geography. The Committee warmly thank Sister Davies for her generous gift.

9. Western Australia has formed an affiliated class at Perth and Boulder City. The former is under Bren Alan Price, B.A. (President), D. A. Ewers and H. J. Banks; the latter is under A. J. Saunders. New South Wales, New Zealand and Tasmania are likely to do the same in the near future.

10. During the year a great demand has been made upon our students for preaching services, and many of the students have availed themselves of these offers, but still there is much that could and ought to be done by our churches in striving to help these young men, who are sacrificing a great deal to more fully equip themselves for the Master's service. Your Committee commends this work to the brotherhood, and hopes that more use may be made of the opportunities at hand both to increase the usefulness of the College and to assist young men to assist themselves.

Administrative Com. { JAS. JOHNSTON, Principal.
F. G. DUNN.
A. B. MASTON.

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

F. G. Dunn said that he regretted the absence of Bro. Johnston. The work had been largely done by him, and he was best qualified to speak of the work. As this subject would receive the attention of the Federal Conference, he would not speak further upon it, save to say that Bro. Johnston and his assistants deserved the best thanks of the brethren.

W. C. Craigie also spoke to the question, endorsing what Bro. Dunn had said.

Percy Pittman spoke on behalf of the students, and urged the brethren to encourage them by giving them work to do.

J. Pittman said he took a keen interest in the work, and it gave him great pleasure to do what he could in helping the young men to better equip themselves for the work.

J. Johnston, who had just come to the meeting, after drawing attention to some of the items in the report, spoke in high tones of the work done by those who were assisting him. He also spoke very highly of the work done by the students, and urged the churches to do what they could to encourage them in their work.

J. T. T. Harding said that he thought something should be said by those who were not directly connected with the work of education. He desired to say that in his opinion the work of Bro. Johnston and his assistants deserved every praise, and all things considered the work was splendidly done. The educational work that had been done would bear favorable comparison with the same work, in its initial stage, which had been done elsewhere in the early history of things. He was of opinion that some supervision should be exercised in the selection of those who were being trained for the life-work of preaching the gospel.

J. Inglis Wright said that he regarded the educational question as one of the greatest problems that we had to face. In New Zealand they were doing what they could, and while they could get over the difficulty of a secular training, they required some institution for Biblical instruction. He hoped that this matter would receive full consideration at the hands of the Federal Conference. It was necessary that there should be a united Australasian effort to gain the desired end. He believed it was possible of accomplishment.

The nomination of officers took place at 12 o'clock, after which there was an adjournment for lunch.

After the lunch adjournment, the Conference reassembled at 1.30.

The devotional meeting was conducted by P. J. Pond. A short address was delivered by H. D. Smith, in which he exhorted the brethren in the words of Paul to Timothy to "pray for all men."

The President having resumed the chair, the consideration of the Executive's Report was further proceeded with.

6. STATISTICS.

The total number of additions by faith and baptism since last Conference has been 940. The present total membership is 7608, an increase, after deducting all losses, of 416. The church rolls have evidently had a good overhaul, as no fewer than 564 have been struck off through "removal and revision of roll."

The following shows the gains and losses:—
Additions—By faith and baptism, 940; letter, 351; formerly immersed, 125; restoration, 44; total, 1460.
Losses—By letter, 398; death, 74; removal and revision of roll, 564; total, 1036. Increase, 424.
There are 69 Sunday Schools, with 6478 scholars and 624 teachers, an increase of 1 school, 1 scholar and 32 teachers. 262 were added to the church from the Sunday School.

7. FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

In last year's Conference reports a "Call for an Australasian Conference" was published. This was signed by a number of brethren in the various States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand. A resolution was passed that "the Victorian Executive

Treasurer's Statement, Victorian Mission Fund.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Balance, 1904	...	...	£69 10 5	Salaries—H. G. Harward	...	£260 0 0	
Collection at Conference, 1904	...	...	42 12 1	E. W. Pittman	...	156 0 0	
Annual Collections	...	...	307 1 9	R. G. Cameron	...	156 0 0	
Individual Contributions	...	...	192 8 3	H. Leng	...	156 0 0	
Contributions from Churches	...	...	157 13 3	A. W. Connor	...	156 0 0	
Home Mission Reunion of Church Members by Sisters' Executive	...	...	102 14 3	J. Clydesdale	...	156 0 0	
Transferred from Bequest Fund	...	...	86 7 4	W. G. Oram	...	117 0 0	
Collection by Bro. Harward for Tent Fund	...	...	52 2 0	J. W. Parslow	...	54 15 0	
Conference fees	...	...	27 0 0	A. M. Ludbrook	...	52 0 0	
From Churches for Evangelists' Services—	...	...		M. McLellan	...	52 0 0	
<i>Kaniva District—</i>							1315 15 0
Kaniva	...	£100 0 0		Subsidies to Churches—Newmarket	...	53 0 0	
Lillimur	...	55 11 9		South Yarra	...	26 0 0	
Carew	...	50 0 0		Horsham District	...	16 5 0	95 5 0
Border Town	...	30 0 0					
Yanac North	...	17 3	236 9 0	Tent Account—New Tent	...	89 0 0	
<i>Mallee Circuit—</i>				Hire of Tent and Repairs	...	10 15 10	99 15 10
Warmur West	...	66 14 6		Printing and Stationery	...	...	43 17 6
Galaquil	...	29 0 0		Rent Masonic Hall	...	...	12 0 0
Maidavale	...	5 0 0		Travelling Expenses	...	...	10 0 0
Brim	...	42 10 0		Postage	...	...	7 3 0
Conference of Mallee Churches	...	2 0 0	145 4 6	Exchange	...	...	2 5 6
<i>Wedderburn Circuit—</i>				Conference Expenses	...	...	4 4 6
Wedderburn	...	71 10 0		Picnic Expenses	...	...	2 7 8
Dunolly	...	3 0 0	74 10 0	Sundries	...	...	1 10 0
<i>Echuca Circuit—</i>				Balances in Bank	...	11 2 1	
Echuca	...	25 0 0		Cash on Hand	...	56 17 6	67 19 7
Shepparton	...	12 0 0					£1662 3 7
Kyabram	...	11 0 0					
Cosgrove	...	10 10 0					
Ballandella	...	8 10 9					
Merrigum	...	4 10 0	71 10 9				
Castlemaine	...	...	97 0 0				
			£1662 3 7				

Melbourne, 31st March, 1905.

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A. ENG.

A. R. LYALL

Auditors.

Committee make the necessary arrangements for holding the Conference in accordance with Clause 3." In the clause alluded to, four of the States should first approve before convening the Federal Conference. We placed ourselves in communication with the various Conferences in Australia and New Zealand, and having received the approval of the necessary number, arrangements were made for holding the Conference at Melbourne during the first week in June next, continuing from the 2nd to the 6th inclusive. The necessary Committees have been appointed to make arrangements for the various meetings, and programmes will be published as soon as completed. We expect these to be ready during this Conference. It is to be hoped that all will do their best to make the Federal Conference a success.

J. Johnston said that the Conference Committee had been instructed by the last Conference that on four States signifying their desire to hold such Conference, they should proceed to make the necessary arrangements. The desired number having signified their willingness, the Committee had convened the Conference and had drawn up a programme, which they hoped would prove satisfactory.

8. MARRIAGE LICENSES.

It will be remembered that at last Conference some difference of opinion was expressed as to who should be granted licenses to celebrate marriages, the result being that the matter was referred to the Executive Committee to make inquiry and report to this Conference. After duly considering the question in Committee, and submitting a test case to the Assistant Government Statist, who was fully apprised of all the circumstances attending the application, and approved of the same, the Committee decided to report that any brother who is preaching regularly for a church, whether partially engaged in secular pursuits or solely devoted to the work, may, upon the recom-

mendation of the Conference President, be registered to perform marriages. But we think that prior to such recommendation being given, the Committee should consider all such applications, and, after careful consideration, use a wise discretion before recommending the same. This precaution, we think, will safeguard any possible misuse of the privilege. A list of those at present registered is laid on the table.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

With grateful hearts to the Father of all mercies we bring our labors for the year to a close. He has crowned our efforts with much success, and with exceeding joy we have to report a harvest of many souls.

We are thankful for the hearty co-operation of all Committees, and for the help accorded by all during the year. We have to thank the churches at Swanston-st. and Lygon-st. for the use of their chapels to hold the meetings in. We have to thank the auditors (Bren. Barnacle and A. R. Lyall) for their valuable services in auditing the various accounts.

We earnestly pray that the great work of spreading the glad tidings of salvation through the risen Christ may go on until every part of our beloved land may have had the grand old gospel proclaimed in their midst.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

JAMES COOK, President.

M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

The Executive's report was adopted as a whole.

Bequest Fund Account.

HOME MISSION FUND.

1904—Bal. at Deposit, E.S. & A. Bank .. £132 0 0
Bank Interest 4 11 8

£136 11 8

By Amount Transferred to General Fund .. £86 7 4

Fixed Deposit in E.S. & A. Bank .. 50 4 4
£136 11 8

Audited and found correct,

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A. Eng.

A. R. LYALL

Auditors.

Melb., 31/3/05.

Home Missionary Committee's Report.

The following is a report of work done during the past year by the various evangelists in the home fields:—

1. H. G. HARWARD AND E. W. PITTMAN.

The State Evangelist and Singing Evangelist have again been jointly engaged in the work during the year. The following places have been visited, with the results appended.

Place.	Addresses.	Additions.
Castlemaine (tent)	.. 32	.. 28
Dandenong (two missions, tent and chapel)	.. 87	.. 60
Bayswater (hall)	.. 21	.. 6
Hawthorn (chapel)	.. 31	.. 15
Fitzroy (chapel)	.. 33	.. 33
St. Arnaud (tent)	.. 75	.. 53
Terang (tent)	.. 64	.. 50
South Yarra (tent)	.. 39	.. 29
Warragul (tent)	.. 52	.. 20
Miscellaneous	.. 9	..

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In two of the above places, viz., St. Arnaud and Terang, there were no churches organised previous to their visit. A reference to the statistical schedule will show that there are now churches with a membership of 53 and 52 respectively. The additions at St. Arnaud and Terang include some members residing in the districts, most of whom were not

previously included in the Conference statistics. Nearly all the additions in the other places were by faith and baptism.

Having lost his note book in which he kept a record, Bro. Harward cannot supply the exact figures as to how many were baptised. But the following is as near as possible the result:—Added by faith and baptism, 264; formerly immersed, 30; total, 294.

Short addresses were delivered by the evangelists laboring with the Conference, a synopsis of which we give as under:—

H. G. Harward said that he had many thanks to offer for the blessings he had received, especially for the bodily strength which had been given to him, and for the privilege that had been granted to him and Bro. Pittman of being engaged in this great work. He had to thank the brethren for their prayers, and Bro. Maston and the Austral Company for the tracts which were so highly appreciated. He had to thank the brethren for the new tent, and the Endeavor Society for the flag they had given them. The special feature of their work for the year had been the entering into new fields. St. Arnaud and Terang were quite new, and Dandenong and Warragul were practically so. They found that the old gospel was still the power of God unto salvation. They did not require to turn their services into meetings for entertainment. They found that Victoria seemed to be hungering and thirsting after the truth. They had, it is true, met with much opposition, but much of the opposition came from quarters where it should not.

W. B. Hayes said it was with very great pleasure that he bore testimony to the good work that had been done at Dandenong. The work that had been done had made a good impression upon the neighborhood, and those who had been brought into the church were loyal to the Master.

R. W. Judd said that twelve months ago he had uttered the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," and he now had to thank the Conference for the help given to Warragul, and to rejoice in the glorious results of the Harward and Pittman tent mission. The brethren should be proud of these workers. Their need now was a building of their own in which to meet, and they were doing their best to get one.

E. W. Pittman, instead of giving an address, sang, "Leading Men to Jesus."

2. A. W. CONNOR.

The work of the year was begun by a four weeks' mission by Bren. Harward and Pittman, during which some 28 came out for Christ. The year's work has been chiefly given to the town of Castlemaine, but help has also been rendered to Taradale and Newstead. Barker's Creek united with the Drummond church to support Bro. McCance, and thus freedom was given to help the churches above mentioned. This indicates progress throughout this district. During the year Bro. Connor delivered 209 addresses, besides being present at and helping to direct many other meetings. The additions in the various places have been:—By faith and baptism, 31; restored, 5; baptised formerly, 4; total, 40.

A. W. Connor said that in Castlemaine there had been a church for twenty-five years. In the district itself there were six churches. The difficulty had been to get these churches to go ahead. The church at Harcourt had been the only one that had contributed much to preaching work. With the advent of the tent mission a great change

had taken place, more particularly at Castlemaine. The change both in regard to morning and evening services had been very great. Those who spoke against tent missions spoke in ignorance. The work that had been done in Castlemaine itself was a sufficient proof of their value. In addition, a good work was being done by W. McCance at Harcourt and Drummond.

3. H. LENG AND W. G. ORAM.

During the past year the work of these brethren has been confined to the same places as on previous years, namely: Kaniwa, Lillimur, South Lillimur, Yanipy, Bordertown, Mundulla and Wampony. The meetings have been good throughout the year and the interest well sustained at all places. Missions have been held at Wampony and Yanipy, resulting in 7 confessions at Wampony and 13 at Yanipy. The number of additions for the year has been 29 by faith and baptism and 1 restoration. Total, 30. The number of addresses for the year have been: Bro. Oram 158, and Bro. Leng 185. A new chapel has been opened at Bordertown with seating accommodation for about 120 people. The annual Conference held at Kaniwa was a great success, and the promise to the H. M. Fund will be £10 more than last year.

H. Leng said that he had been to these Conferences for the last six years representing the West Wimmera District. He thought it was a good district to represent. He believed that all present were in full sympathy with Home Missions, but there were some who required educating upon the question. The churches in the district were numerically strong, especially that at Kaniwa. Out of a population of 300, it had 130 members. He believed the churches were growing in spiritual strength. A great factor in their success had been the tent mission. It was not so good a tent as that of Bro. Harward, but it was one that did good service. They found that though there was much prejudice, when our principles were properly presented they found a good reception. What they wanted now was a third man. If the Conference would send three men, the district would guarantee to support two of them.

W. G. Oram said that he was Bro. Leng's assistant, and he could bear testimony that Bro. Leng had a big heart and big faith. He hoped that in the year they were entering upon they would both be working in the same field. He would enlarge upon what Bro. Leng had said about a third man. Bro. Leng was a missionary and believed in tent missions. He was desirous of giving himself entirely to this kind of work. This could be done if a third man were sent by the Committee.

Bro. Wylie, from Border Town, said it was a great pleasure for him to be present at the Conference. He had enjoyed the singing and the speeches, and more especially the spirit of Christian unity that seemed to prevail. He would urge all to live up to the standard of a Christlike life.

4. R. G. CAMERON.

During the first half of the year Bro. Cameron labored with the churches at Wedderburn and Dunolly; the last half of the year has been wholly given to Wedderburn and the newly founded church at St. Arnaud. Early in September last H. G. Harward and E. W. Pittman commenced a tent mission at St. Arnaud, which continued for seven weeks, with the result that a church was established with a total membership of 53.

Special mention should be made of the splendid liberality of the groups of churches comprised in the

district north of Castlemaine and Maryborough to Wedderburn, who in response to appeals from Bro. Cameron contributed the sum of £27/13/10 towards the local expenses of the mission; also of the fine missionary spirit manifested by the church at Wedderburn in foregoing its claim upon the services of Bro. Cameron for nearly four months during and after the mission, thus enabling him to devote that time exclusively to the work at St. Arnaud.

During the last two months Bro. Cameron has divided his time between Wedderburn and St. Arnaud. The additions, apart from the mission, have been by faith and baptism 12.

R. G. Cameron said that he was there as the representative of the church at St. Arnaud. He would like the meeting to endorse the statement made in the report in regard to the generous assistance that had been given by the neighboring churches to St. Arnaud. The work at St. Arnaud had been disappointing since the mission, inasmuch as since then there had been only five additions. The meetings at the gospel services had been good, but the results had not been all that could have been desired. Though much had not been accomplished in the way of additions, yet a good work had been done in building up the church.

5. J. CLYDESDALE.

Bro. Clydesdale has continued his labors in the Mallee district during the past year, including Brim, Galaquil, Warmer West and Maidavale (near Hope-town). The work has been principally in visiting the brethren and friends (in conversing with the latter in their homes). In visiting he has travelled over 3000 miles. The additions during the year have been few, but the churches are enjoying peace, and a deep spirituality prevails. Delivered 129 addresses, besides visiting Bordertown, South Lillimur, Terang and Port Fairy. Additions—2 by faith and baptism and 3 restored. Total, 5.

J. Clydesdale said that his district did not compare favorably with some of the other districts, owing to the sparseness of the population. He did not have assistants like Bro. Leng, but he had a good helper in Bro. White. Some time ago the Mallee district was a good one, but many had been obliged to leave it and were now doing good work elsewhere. He was not satisfied with the work that was being done in the Mallee. He did not know whether the fault was with himself or the churches. Much of his work was of a pastoral kind, and while that was needful he did not like it so well as evangelising.

Bro. White said that he was there to entreat them to be sure and send back a man to the Mallee. The work was hard, and it was therefore needful to have an evangelist.

6. A. M. LUDBROOK.

Bro. Ludbrook returned to the Echuca district and labored there for 3 months prior to his acceptance of an engagement to labor with the church at North Adelaide. During his stay in Echuca circuit there were 5 additions by faith and baptism.

7. J. W. PARSLAW.

Bro. Parslow started in Echuca circuit on Oct. 13. Of 5½ months, 2 full months have been spent in Echuca, 1 in Kyabram and 1 in Shepparton. Ballendella, Toolamba and Cosgrove have been visited as often as possible. The brethren formerly of Merrigum church have joined Kyabram. Christian Endeavor Societies have been formed in the 3 largest churches, and gospel, Lord's day School and Temperance work has been attended to. Number of addresses given, 126. Additions by faith and baptism, 10. Restored, 1. Total, 11.

At the recent local Conference it was considered advisable to divide the district into two, making one circuit at the Echuca end and one at the Shepparton

end, and that the Committee be asked to send a second man to Shepparton, Bro. Parslow remaining at Echuca. The promises from both ends have been largely increased in the hope that this may be possible. The request is worthy of consideration and will no doubt receive the attention of the new Committee.

J. W. Parslow said that he regarded the Echuca District as a better field than any other under the Conference. There were great possibilities there. The work at Echuca, Kyabram, Cosgrove and elsewhere was carried on under great difficulties. He would specially recommend that Shepparton, the centre of the Goulburn Valley, be formed into a separate district. He regarded that place as being worth all the money the Conference could put into it. The Christian Endeavor Society in that place had done much good. The churches had agreed that if a second man were sent into the district they would double the amount previously contributed.

Bro. Mason, P. Bryce and J. C. Skinner supported Bro. Parslow in his advocacy for a second preacher.

8. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports:—

Additions by faith and baptism, 353; formerly immersed, 34; restored, 10. Total, 397.

9. CHURCH SUBSIDIES.

The following subsidies have been given during the year:—Horsham circuit, 25/- per month; church at South Yarra, 10/- per week; church at Newmarket, 20/- per week. With regard to the two latter, application for their continuance has been made to the Committee, which will be referred to the incoming Committee for their consideration.

10. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 15. Dr. Jas. Cook, 11; F. M. Ludbrook, 11; W. C. Craigie, 13; M. McLellan, 14; F. W. Martin, 12; F. G. Dunn, 14; James Johnston, 12; A. Millis, 14; A. B. Maston, 15; T. J. Cook, 13; J. T. T. Harding, 10; J. W. Baker, 7.

The Home Missionary Committee's report was adopted as a whole.

Hymn Book Account.

1904—To Balance in Savings Bank	..	£45 14 11
Bank Interest	..	.. 1 7 0
		£47 1 11

1905—By Balance in Savings Bank	..	£47 1 11
Audited and found correct,		

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

Melb., 31/3/05.

Foreign Missionary Committee's Report.

1. VICTORIAN.

CHINESE MISSION.—This has been a memorable year, in that land has been purchased and upon it a building suitable for our local work has been erected. In December last this was opened with a tea and public meeting. So that the debt upon the property might be reduced as far as possible, letters of appeal for aid were sent far and wide. Some responded generously, but the total number responding at all has been rather disappointing. The debt is now £1013/6/2.

Bro. F. McClean and his helpers are pushing the work along. The building is used every week-night, and for all Sunday services.

Bro. James is now with us for about six months, earnestly preaching and building up the church which has recently been organised. About 18 Chinese

break bread every Lord's day, out of a membership of 21. Average attendance at week-night classes: scholars, 35; teachers, 29. Average attendance at Lord's day evening preaching, 65. Baptisms during the year, 9.

Miss Ahgan resigned her very useful work toward the end of the term. She has now left for Adelaide and Christian work there, taking with her the best wishes of the Committee.

ASSYRIANS.—Mr. Jaboor, a representative Assyrian, interviewed us and gave us much information concerning the 150 of his countrymen in and near Melbourne. The Committee thought, however, that nothing specially in their interests could be undertaken at present.

2. FEDERAL.

Our Committees with full and equal powers are four—N.S.W., S.A., W.A. and Vic.—with three advisory Committees in New Zealand who are all supplied with information regularly.

F. McClean said that it was a source of great satisfaction to them that they had now a building of their own in which to conduct their mission to the Chinese. He was thankful for the services of Bro. James, who intended shortly to conduct a mission from which they expected good results and for which he asked the prayers of the Conference.

J. Inglis Wright spoke to the clause under the head of Federal. He said that a meeting like the one he was addressing was an inspiration. What he had to speak to them about was the inauguration of a special Australasian mission. Hitherto we had been working in connection with the great American brotherhood. A good work was being done in this way, but he was of opinion that the Australasian brotherhood should have an independent mission. After referring at some length to the vast fields which lay open and required the gospel, he urged upon the Conference that the needs of foreign lands laid upon them an immense responsibility. He also urged the concentration of our forces in one independent mission.

3. SOUTH AFRICA.

BULAWAYO.—Bro. Sherriff has corresponded with us finely, giving us a good idea of the work. Donations from Australia have largely helped him in the building of a chapel for the gospel services and classes. The membership now stands at 80. The native evangelist, Bro. Agrippa, is highly spoken of, and assists Bro. Sherriff materially.

Bro. Sherriff appeals for a fully qualified brother to take charge of the work in Bulawayo. We should be glad could such assistance be given. We cordially recommend, subject to the consent and co-operation of the allied Committees, that, whenever possible, a missionary should be sent to Bulawayo, South Africa. This would necessitate an increase of expenditure to extent of about £250 per annum, which would of course have to be provided for.

Percy Pittman said that he had to say something about the work of Bro. Sherriff. Bro. Sherriff had been a member of the church at North Fitzroy, and they should be proud of the work he had done. He advocated that a missionary should be sent to help Bro. Sherriff in his work in Bulawayo. He thought that Bulawayo would make a good independent Australasian mission station. The work had been begun by an Australian brother, and was not connected with any missionary society. It presented special facilities for the formation of an independent mission, and would involve less cost than any other that he knew of.

H. Swain drew attention to the fact that the formation of this mission would increase

our responsibility and scatter our energies. He sympathised with the work in South Africa, but he was afraid, in view of our indebtedness, that we could not cope with the additional expenditure.

B. Huntsman suggested that the last three lines of the clause relating to South Africa be deleted. He did so because he was of the opinion that it would be a financial burden that the Committee could not stand.

R. Lyall pointed out that the clause referred to did not commit the Committee to any immediate expenditure, but provided that it should only be incurred when circumstances were favorable.

F. G. Dunn advocated the formation of an independent Australasian Foreign Mission.

F. M. Ludbrook and P. J. Pond also spoke to the question under consideration. J. T. T. Harding moved and B. Huntsman seconded, That the words "We cordially recommend," &c., be omitted. This was carried.

F. G. Dunn moved and J. J. T. Harding seconded, That the cause at Bulawayo be recommended to the favorable consideration of the Foreign Missionary Committee. This was carried.

4. INDIA.

Bro. A. C. Rankins on his world-tour called off at our request and saw as many of the stations as the brief time would allow. His presence cheered the workers, and his report, which was published in the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, will be of great value to us.

Bro. and Sister Strutton's visit to our States has proved very enjoyable to us. The Committee had several talks with Bro. Strutton. His proposals will come up for discussion at the June (Federal) Conference.

Sister Mary Thompson reports:—The Zenana work has been carried on in Harda much the same as in former years. At the beginning of the season we had forty-five pupils, and about two hundred houses were visited by Sarubai Bhaktibai, and myself. Many of the women have died in the year, and others have lost relatives, so that now we have only twenty pupils. We were able to visit only a few villages in the year. The weekly meetings with the Christian women had to be given up for a time, but were resumed later, and for the last three months have been well attended. We lost very few of our Sunday School scholars, and the school keeps about as usual.

Bro. and Sister Stubbin are now located at Hatta, the new station. The former has been very ill, but is now recovered. A few orphans are in their care. They write:—"We were sorry to leave Baidanath Junction, as were many of our friends in the villages round about, but we also felt that perhaps there was greater need for us at Hatta. We arrived here on the 29th of April, 1904, and so far have been very well received, except by one Mohammedan, who said that our teaching was all lies, and when I asked him if he worshipped gods of wood and stone he answered yes, thus proving himself a liar, and we had no more trouble from him. We crave the prayers of all our friends, especially those of our fellow workers in India."

M. J. Shah writes:—This year I have been located in Harda, and the Sunday School at Handia had to be discontinued. Some of the boys in the school died with the plague. Handia is now being depopulated as there is not much work for the people. In Handia I now preach regularly in the bazaar on market days, and carry on evangelistic work in the town itself and in the suburbs. The prospect is hopeful. The Lord's Word shall not return unto him void.

Yakub Masih.—I have spent nearly three months touring with Mr. Grainger. Often the villagers did not want us, fearing that we had come to spread the plague. Now many acknowledge that their gods did not help them in time of distress. I think I have preached in over 100 different villages, going many times to some of the nearer villages about me. Many thousands heard the gospel. The Sunday School work was carried on well, but was closed for about three months. While I was absent preaching, my

wife conducted the Sunday School. There were 43 pupils enrolled in the School. I have given medicine to 760 sick people in 15 different villages. During the year I visited one mela. There was one baptism here in the year.

The church membership at the 5 stations has increased from 598 to 741. Baptisms during the year, 158. There are 1599 Sunday scholars—347 orphans, and (at Harda and Mungeli) 105 lepers being cared for.

H. D. Smith said he concurred in the idea of an independent Australasian Mission. It had been in his mind for some years past, and only upon its realisation would we achieve the best results. He also spoke at some length in regard to the work of the missionaries.

5. JAPAN.

TOKYO.—Bro. P. A. Davey whom we are hoping to see in June, writes:—"In many respects the best working year I have had in Japan. Meetings have been conducted in the rented house in much the same way as in Australia or in America. On Lord's day morning last we had school, a sermon by Mr. S. Takeshita, and the Lord's Supper. At night, after my English-Japanese Bible Class, there was a gospel service, after which we sat down on the floor by the brazier and talked to enquirers and sipped Japanese tea. On Wednesday night Professor Ishikawa taught a Bible Class. On Thursday night I had a Bible Class in my home. On Saturday night I taught a class in the Hongo chapel. Friday afternoon was my day at home for callers. Young men called and were entertained with gospel songs and pure talk. We are always doing something, yet the sum total seems little. I must not forget to say however, that several young men have become Christians. Japan is not a kingdom of Jesus yet, but will be according to his promise. These kind-hearted people are among the first to recognise the truth that all men are brothers, and they will not be the last to love and worship their Father and ours. Christian missionaries are loved and honored. The rulers have made it clear to the people, that this unfortunate war is in no sense a war against religion; and that there is a formal Christianity which is lifeless and a practical Christianity which is valuable, has been made plain by recent events. The outlook is hopeful for our mission work. Drake College is already a source of strength. The Girls' School shortly to be opened, will be another foundation. There have been nine baptisms at my place of work in Takabaya, Cho, Koishikawa. To do the best work here, a chapel is necessary. Many people do not go readily to a private house. A chapel is a public place. Where chapels have been erected, audiences are larger. This is regarded as one of the most strategic points in Tokyo. It is in the midst of homes, schools, and dormitories. Others will seize this opportunity if we do not. That may be taken away which we seem to have. He that sows sparingly shall reap sparingly. Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God." Membership 1119 at the 4 stations, as against 892 last year. Baptisms during the year, 115. Scholars, 923.

The consideration of the work at Japan was not entered into at any length owing to the expected arrival of P. A. Davey in June, when fuller information would be placed in the hands of the brethren.

6. CHINA.

SHANGHAI.—Sister Rosa L. Tonkin writes: "During the year I have kept up my studies in the mornings, and in the afternoons have been engaged in work among the women. Early in the year I made my first trip to Tsung Ming. We had a very happy time there. More than 500 women came to visit us and hear the gospel during the five days. Early in the year I opened an enquirers' class among the women. We have had good attendances, and eight have asked for baptism. They give every evidence in their daily lives of a change of heart."

Bro. James Ware, of the same city, reports: "That our Yangtzeopoo chapel needs enlarging is certain from the way it has been crowded during the past year. Mr. Saw, a private tutor in a Chinese family, broke opium and entered the church. With his entrance came a wave of blessing, and the baptistry was in constant requisition. The first to follow him was a minor official at the mills named Han who had

become acquainted with the gospel through Dr. Macklin at Nanking. I have made several trips to the outstations, from each of which some persons have been baptised. Total baptised during year, 25, and present membership at Shanghai, 231. Membership in China, 745. Last year, 719. Baptisms at the five stations, 81. Total in Sunday Schools, 510."

The question of providing suitable quarters for Miss Tonkin we referred to the American Board.

7. KANAKA MISSION.

A full account of the trip to the Islands, written by John Thompson, was published in the *Australian Christian*. The brethren there are pushing the work, and to them some financial help has been sent. Bendigo Endeavorers are supporting Taby-man-con. At Childers Bro. John Thompson reports that there is work to engage his attention for some good while to come.

8. FINANCE.

The amount received from all sources during the year for missionary work was £1147/8/11, which, added to balance of £31/5/6 brought forward from last year, made a total of £1178/14/5.

The expenditure for same period on missionary work and necessary expenses totals £1295/13/-, showing an excess of expenditure over receipts of £116/18/7. We are hopeful that this deficiency will be more than made good during the coming year through the increased liberality of the churches. The demands on the brethren for building the new Chinese chapel in Melbourne may have diverted some income from the ordinary funds, but the Committee trusts there will soon be a good recovery. For purposes of comparison we append a tabulated statement of receipts from the different States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand for the past three years, together with the expenditure for same period in the different localities where our missionary enterprise has reached:—

	EXPENDITURE.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.
India	£359 0 0	£432 0 8	£441 16 5
China	133 17 6	123 0 0	159 1 4
Japan	125 0 0	133 0 0	130 0 0
S. Africa	..	52 0 0	64 7 6
Kanaka Miss'n, Qnd. & S. Sea Islands	171 0 0	254 13 11	177 0 0
Chinese Mission, Melb.	75 0 0	115 3 0	181 8 2
Chinese Mission, Syd.	6 9 9	11 5 0	66 10 0
Sundry Expenses, Printing, Exch'ge, &c.	60 8 7	59 18 10	75 9 7
Totals	£930 15 10	£1181 1 5	£1295 13 0

	RECEIPTS.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.
N.S. Wales	£104 1 2	£120 17 3	*£133 11 10
N. Zealand	62 15 6	86 2 9	117 11 0
Queensland	72 6 3	73 4 5	45 14 7
S. Australia	201 11 9	204 2 7	284 17 0
Tasmania	13 13 10	17 4 6	16 8 7
Victoria	354 8 3	498 13 7	393 17 11
W. Australia	77 19 2	96 12 7	155 8 0
Totals	£886 15 11	£1006 17 8	£1147 8 11

*Including £6 4 7 advanced by Treasurer.

NOTE.—South Australia contribute to other work outside of the Federal Committee, including £40 per annum towards support of Bro. Strutton, India.

In addition to amount shown as being raised during past year, £288 11 4 has also been contributed towards erection of Chinese Mission building, Melbourne.

Contributions for special purposes were received during the year and forwarded as follows:—

From New South Wales.		
Mrs. Sylvester Butler, towards salary of Agrippa, South Africa	..	£8 0 0
Petersham and Sydney Bible Schools, for support of Orphan, Female Orphanage, Mahoba, India..	..	5 0 0
Bible Schools and Endeavor Societies, for Christmas Benevolent Work (sent direct to Miss Thompson)	..	6 15 6
Do., sent direct to Miss Tonkin	..	6 6 4

From New Zealand.

Auckland District F.M. Committee, towards Bro. Sherriff's work in Africa and Miss Tonkin's work in China	..	46 16 0
(Total amount raised by Auckland District churches for year, £53/13/6)	..	
Middle District F.M. Committee (Wellington), towards Bro. Sherriff's work in Africa and Kanaka Mission Work	..	32 0 0
Oamaru F.M. Band, for support of Boy (2 years), sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India	10 0 0	
Wanganui F.M. Band, for support of Boy (sent to F. E. Stubbin, Hatta, India)..	5 0 0	

From South Australia.

Grote-st., Adelaide, F.M. Band, for Bible Woman for Miss Tonkin, China	..	15 0 0
Do., for support of Yakub Masih, India	..	25 0 0
Grote-st., Adelaide, C.E. Society, for Medical Work for Miss Thompson, India..	1 15 0	
Do., for Miss Tonkin, China	..	1 15 0
Grote-st., Adelaide, Bible School, for support of Boy (sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India)	..	5 0 0
Grote-st., Adelaide, Children, for Chinese Children (sent to Miss Tonkin)	..	1 0 0
Church, North Adelaide, for support of boy (sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India)	..	5 0 0
Unley C. E. Society for support of boy (sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India)	..	5 0 0
Unley Young Ladies' Mission Band, for support of Boy (sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India)	..	5 0 0
Per S. A. Committee, for W. D. Cunningham, Japan	..	5 0 0

From Victoria.

Swanston-st., Melbourne, C. E. Society, for support of Boy (sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India)	..	5 0 0
Fitzroy Tabernacle C. E. Society, for support of Boy (sent to D. Rioch, Damoh, India)	..	5 0 0
North Fitzroy C. E. Society, for support of Boy (sent to F. L. Stubbin, Hatta, India)	..	5 0 0
Bendigo C. E. Society for support of Taby-man-con, New Hebrides, South Sea Islands	..	6 0 0
Sunday School, Mildura, for Orphan work, Japan (sent to W. D. Cunningham)	..	1 5 0
Sunday Schools in Victoria, for Christmas Benevolent Work (sent to Miss Thompson and F. E. Stubbin, India; Miss Tonkin, China; John Sherriff, South Africa; and John Thompson, Queensland)	..	10 13 8
Doncaster Mission Band, towards salary of Bro. Shah, Native Evangelist, India	..	12 10 0

From Western Australia

Sunday Schools for Christmas Benevolent Work (sent to Miss Thompson, India, direct)	..	8 5 11
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VOLUNTEERS.—Several having a desire to work for the Lord in the field, have written for our advice in the matter. Others are ready to be sent.

NOTA BENE.—We have posted to Christian Endeavour Societies and Mission Bands to help in their meetings the *Missionary Intelligencer* and *Missionary Tidings*. A few subscribers to these papers have also come in. Bren. J. Pittman and P. Pittman arranged the issue of the July special number of the *Australian Christian*. To Bro. P. Pittman we are indebted for great artistic help, and also for efficient work as our Press Correspondent. Bro. H. D. Smith has corresponded with all the workers right through the year. The idea of a quarterly missionary S.S. leaflet was approved and referred to the S.S. Union. The Malvern Mission Band, after a long and honorable career, has disbanded, but its members are helping through other channels. The Sunday Schools and Endeavorers responded better than ever to our appeal for a Christmas fund. Bro. Webster has readily aided with his lantern when asked for help, especially during the lectures by Bro. H. H. Strutton, undertaking a lot of arduous work. The Swanston-st. brethren have kindly allowed us the use of their room for Committee purposes.

Clause 8, with the balance sheets connected therewith, was adopted.

J. Pittman said that the finances on the whole were satisfactory, though the balance sheet showed a deficiency. The Committee during the past year had succeeded in bringing all the States into line in the matter of sending funds direct to the central treasurer. Christian Endeavor Societies and Sunday Schools could do a good work in supporting native helpers.

On the motion of F. M. Ludbrook, seconded by F. G. Dunn, it was resolved, That this Conference recommend the establishment of an independent Foreign Mission station, and desire the Foreign Mission Committee to co-operate with the delegates at the Federal Conference in carrying out the same.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.—During some of the time Bro. Smith could not come in from Doncaster. This became practicable later. Sister Maston attended up to the time of her departure for U.S.A. Meetings held, 13. Mrs. Chown, 11; Mrs. Huntsman, 9; Mrs. Maston, 5; J. Pittman, 10; P. Pittman, 11; R. Lyall, 11; H. D. Smith, 6; F. McClean, 11; A. Meldrum, 6; F. M. Ludbrook, 12.

F. M. LUDBROOK, Secretary.

The Foreign Missionary Committee's report was adopted as a whole.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.—F. M. Ludbrook.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—Robt. Lyall.

TREASURER.—W. C. Craigie.

SECRETARY.—M. McLellan.

ASST. SECRETARY.—F. W. Martin.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—T. J. Cook, F. G. Dunn, A. B. Maston, J. T. T. Harding, Jas. Johnston, A. Millis, R. C. Edwards.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—Secretary, F. M. Ludbrook; Asst. Sec., H. D. Smith; Treasurer, Robt. Lyall; Committee, F. McClean, G. Percy Pittman, A. Meldrum, W. A. Kemp.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.—J. G. Barrett, F. W. Greenwood, H. G. Peacock, W. C. Thurgood, J. Greenhill, W. J. Woodbridge, A. J. Hagger.

CONFERENCE SERMON.—A. W. Connor.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

On Saturday morning the Conference resumed its sittings by engaging in devotional exercises, led by A. C. Quick, after which the President took the chair and proceeded with the business of the Conference.

Some of the items in the Executive's Report were really dealt with at the Saturday's session, but for the convenience of our readers we have not broken up the Report.

Temperance Committee's Report.

In submitting our report of the work during the year, we thank our heavenly Father for the success that has attended our effort, and for the privilege of working with Him against this great evil, which is not only the greatest enemy of man, but one of the strongest foes to the progress of His church on earth.

At the preliminary meeting of the Committee after their appointment by Conference, the following officers were appointed:—President, J. G. Barrett; Vice-President, W. C. Thurgood; Press Correspondent, J. Greenhill; Secretary and Treasurer, W. J. Woodbridge. At the same meeting the resignation of M. W. Green was received, owing to his leaving

the State. F. W. Greenwood also was unable to act. H. G. Peacock and T. Ghent were subsequently elected to fill the vacancies.

Valuable assistance has been received from Bren Nat Haddow and J. T. Tinkler, and the temperance glee party, in providing suitable musical items.

We have held during the year 22 public demonstrations, the meetings having been held mostly in our metropolitan churches, though not all, some country centres being also visited. We are pleased to say that the present year's Committee have established a record, and have been more successful in this direction than any previous Committee elected by the Annual Conference. Our work has not been confined to our own body. We have also taken part in other meetings in connection with the Victorian Alliance and other kindred bodies, believing that on the question of temperance all good men and women can unite. We also placed ourselves in communication with our country evangelists, requesting their assistance. As in former years, the requests were responded to very heartily, several reporting meetings and good work done. Also, under the direct auspices of the Committee, a Temperance Union has been formed, consisting of Bands of Hope, our Sisters' Conference Temperance Committee and the other temperance organisations connected with the church. For some years past the advisability of such an organisation has been apparent, but no concrete proposal has been formulated. The Committee gave early consideration to this matter, and were unanimous as to the desirability of a Union. A constitution was drawn up and a preliminary meeting held, when it was adopted by the representatives of the various temperance organisations. Officers were elected, and a very lively interest has been maintained. Monthly meetings are held in the hall attached to the Swanston-st. chapel. The Union has been very helpful to the various societies connected with it. There has been an interchange of speakers, and a quarterly plan is arranged, whereby a visit is made to each organisation at their various meetings. In addition to our own speakers, we are also pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining others who work under the auspices of the Alliance. Lantern lectures for the present quarter in various places have also been arranged, and we are looking forward to enjoyable meetings from this source. We express the hope that the Union will grow, and be a stimulus to the work. We feel certain it will supply a long-felt want. Temperance Sunday was also observed as usual throughout the churches and Sunday Schools in the State. We obtained a supply of Temperance Sunday Budgets issued by the Victorian Alliance, and these in turn were forwarded. We are pleased to report that the high standard that the budgets have attained was continued this year, and our preachers and teachers were loud in their praise in respect to the helpful information they contained. In forwarding the budgets a request was made for financial assistance, which was responded to by Bendigo, Footscray, Williamstown, Northcote, Brunswick and South Yarra Sunday Schools. The Committee has been represented on the Victorian Alliance Executive, first by our President; and we are pleased to say that during the year on the retirement of Mr. John Vale after 22 years of sterling service, Bro. Barrett received a unanimous call to succeed him in the work, which he accepted, and on his acceptance vacated his position as the representative of the Committee. The position vacated has been occupied by Bro. Hagger. The Inebriety Board has also been assisted, our representative being Bro. Woodbridge.

We rejoice that the churches of Christ for many years past have at their annual Conferences in Victoria, England and America declared that the complete and final solution of the liquor traffic is Prohibition.

The Committee has held 13 meetings, attended as follows: W. C. Thurgood, 13; W. J. Woodbridge, 13; J. G. Barrett, 12; A. J. Hagger, 11; H. G. Peacock, 9 out of a possible 11; J. Greenhill, 7; T. Ghent, 3 out of a possible 8. It is only fair to say in respect to Bro. Ghent that he was laid aside for some time through illness, which the Committee regretted.

We also desire to thank W. C. Thurgood very heartily for the use of his rooms to the Committee during the year.

The annual balance sheet is appended.

J. G. BARRETT, President.

W. C. THURGOOD, Vice-President.

W. J. WOODBRIDGE, Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance	£7 9 11½
Conference Collection ..	.. 6 15 3
Public Demonstration Collection ..	.. 11 19 3
Donations from Sunday Schools ..	.. 2 7 6
East Suburban Collection ..	.. 0 15 0
Donation .. ..	.. 1 0 0
	£30 6 11½
EXPENDITURE.	
Dr. Balance on Literary Competitions ..	£7 15 6
Printing .. ..	.. 9 7 0
Postage and Advertising ..	.. 1 2 8
Travelling Expenses ..	.. 3 11 9
Rent and Music for Choir ..	.. 1 4 1
Donation Vict. Alliance ..	.. 1 0 0
Sundries .. ..	.. 3 10 0
Balance in Hand ..	.. 2 15 11½
	£30 6 11½

Audited and found correct,

J. BARNACLE } Auditors.
A. R. LYALL }

Melb., 4/4/05.

The consideration of this report evoked an interesting discussion, in which the following brethren took part:—J. T. T. Harding, J. Johnston, R. G. Cameron, F. G. Dunn, A. Millis, F. W. Greenwood, F. M. Ludbrook, and W. C. Thurgood.

J. G. Barrett moved and F. W. Greenwood seconded, the following resolution, which was agreed to:—

That this Conference as representing the churches of Christ in Victoria pledges itself to the forward movement of the Victorian Alliance, and urges that in all future Legislative effort the drink traffic shall be under the complete control of the people, and that triennially a poll be taken in every electoral district of the Legislative Assembly, giving the electors the power of determining whether—

1. Licenses shall be continued.
2. Whether they shall be reduced.
3. Or whether NO Licenses shall be granted.

And that a time limit be agreed to in lieu of present monetary compensation.

The afternoon session was begun by a devotional meeting conducted by J. Hunter of N.S.W., after which a short address was delivered by W. Meekison.

Sunday School Union Report.

It affords us great pleasure in laying before the Conference the following report of work done during the year which is just ebbing to its close. 3 additional schools have joined the Union, making a total of 35 on our roll. These are represented by 50 delegates, who, together with 10 officers, form the General Committee, who meet monthly to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the various schools, the average attendance thereat being 30, as against 24 last year.

At last year's examination 243 teachers and scholars competed. Of this number 80% proved successful; 30 obtained prizes, 128 certificates of merit, and 38 certificates. The distribution of these took place in the Masonic Hall, Collins-st., on July 5th, 1904, when a good programme provided by the scholars was gone through, consisting of songs, recitations and dialogues, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. The retiring President, C. W. Mitchell, presented the awards. It cannot but be admitted that the intelligent replies to the various questions showed that the competitors must have devoted considerable study to the Word of God, and reflected great credit on the efficiency of the teaching staff in helping to bring about the above results.

The examination this year took place on the 3rd April, and, judging from the numerous entries,

there was a keen competition, which must prove beneficial to the candidates. The subject was, Lessons from the Life of Christ, as culled from the 1st quarter's Lessons.

Our financial position is not as strong as we would like it to be, although after having met our liabilities, we have still a small credit balance in hand; but this and more will be absorbed in prizes in connection with the recent examination. If any of the brethren would like to assist in this direction, let them send along their donations to our worthy Treasurer, who will acknowledge same, for it is the best investment that can be entered upon, and one that will outweigh all other monetary transactions.

Realising the great importance of the work and the additions which are being added to the church from the Lord's day School, through the faithful labors of the teachers, our Committee commends it to you for your support and sympathy.

Our teacher's social, annual picnic, and half-yearly demonstration proved successful, being the means in all cases, of bringing together a large number of teachers and friends; of extending more cordial relationship between them, and of passing a most enjoyable time in the company of those who take an interest in our work.

Our thanks are due to the N.S.W. Brethren for having again prepared the question leaflets, and appointed a board of examiners to deal with the answers. To the officers of the Lygon-st. church in allowing us the use of their building in which to hold our committee meetings and social gatherings; and also to the editor of the *Australian Christian* for publishing our reports. In conclusion, we may say that the Sunday School Union is in a very promising condition, and that we have to render our acknowledgements to our Heavenly Father for the many manifestations of his bountiful love; for the goodness and harmony that prevails amongst the toilers in this department of the Lord's vineyard, and for the success that has blessed our efforts in the past; and our prayer is that we may have a continuance thereof in the future, that will bring forth even grander results amongst those whom we have under our care.

On behalf of the Union,

W. BROWN, President,
J. Y. POTTS, Secretary.

W. Brown, President of the Sunday School Union, occupied the chair, and in his introductory remarks spoke of the importance of Sunday School work. This was emphasised, he said, by the fact that in the report it was shown that 262 had been brought into the church from the school.

F. Martin said that the year that had just closed was very successful, especially in the matter of the examinations conducted under the auspices of the Union. This was valuable training for the scholars in the study of the Word of God. The thanks of the Union were due to those brethren in N.S.W. who had assisted in the examination.

J. Tully said he congratulated the Union on the success of its operations during the year. Especially would he congratulate them on the increase to the church from the Sunday School. This result emphasised the importance of having a State Sunday School evangelist. Special thanks were due to Bro. Maston for the literature he had provided for the Sunday Schools, especially in that excellent periodical, *Pure Words*.

H. G. Harward said that in his work throughout the year he did not neglect the interests of the Sunday School, but organised them wherever possible.

J. Johnston gave an address on "The Teachers' Meeting and How to Conduct It." He said that he was satisfied that our growth as a people depended very largely on our efficient administration of the Sunday School. The advantage of the results achieved by the Sunday School was that the training which the young received was enduring in its

quality. The plastic mind of youth received and retained its early impressions. The importance of the work to us as a religious body could not be overestimated. The teachers' meeting that he had to speak about was not a business meeting, but one that was for the training of teachers for their work. After speaking of the importance of this kind of work, Bro. Johnston gave an object lesson of how such a teachers' meeting should be conducted.

The following brethren spoke to the report: F. W. Greenwood, Percy Pittman, E. T. Penny, W. Forbes, F. Martin, W. C. Thurgood and C. Mitchell. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Bro. Johnston for his interesting address.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Though the Christian Endeavor Union had not sent in a written report, J. Johnston, the President, gave a verbal one.

W. McCance also gave some interesting details in reference to Endeavor work.

On the motion of J. Johnston, seconded by A. Meldrum, the verbal report was received and adopted.

OBITUARY.

At this stage J. Pittman read the obituary report, prefacing the reading thereof by some appropriate remarks. 71 deaths were reported. After singing "The Sweet By-and-bye," Bro. Pittman engaged in prayer.

H. G. Harward moved, and F. W. Greenwood seconded, That a week of special prayer be held from May 21st to May 28th. Carried.

H. G. Harward moved, and A. Gibson seconded, That the churches of Christ in Victoria sympathise with the brotherhood of America in their movement to celebrate their centenary in 1909 by making an effort to double their membership, and that we join with them in endeavoring to secure the same for ourselves. Carried.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be empowered to appoint representatives to the Federal Conference.

On the motion of J. Inglis Wright it was resolved that a vote of thanks be given to A. B. Maston and the Austral Company for the valuable services rendered by the publication of our literature. A. B. Maston suitably replied.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was given to all who had taken part in the work of the Conference, and the business part of the Conference was brought to a close with the benediction.

HOME MISSION NIGHT.

At 7:45 the President took the chair at the Home Mission meeting in the Masonic Hall, Collins-st. The proceedings were open by the singing of "The Banner of the Cross," after which A. B. Maston led the meeting in prayer. There was a splendid gathering and three very fine addresses were delivered, of which we are only able to give a slight synopsis.

A. Meldrum spoke on "The Field." He said that this is pre-eminently an age of activity. The Almighty had made it possible to do mightier things than ever was possible before. There were mighty religious upheavals going on throughout the world. These upheavals were possibly not

without elements of error, but the good predominated. He was, however, to speak of Victoria. Here we had a people second to none in the world. He had looked upon its scenery, which in its quiet beauty was unexcelled. It was a beautiful country. But beautiful as was the natural field, the field of men and women such as he then gazed upon was better still. The people who were assembled before him had come from all parts of the world. They were bound together by a common bond. They had broken away from the old traditions and were seeking after the truth of Christ. They had an intense desire for the unadulterated Word of God. This, too, was what the people of Victoria wanted, and what we were bound to give them. It was true that Victoria as a country had passed through many a crisis, but it showed the virility of the people that they had risen superior to them all. This virility manifested in political and financial matters should come to the front in our religious life. He was certain that God meant this country to have a great future, both politically and otherwise. No one man could work out the destiny of this land, but all the energies of the people must be used in this direction. There were men before him with grey hairs in their heads who had not foreseen the coming greatness in Victoria. They passed by the land which afterwards became so valuable—a mistake that should not be perpetuated in church life. The strategic places in our land should be seized. The choice localities of the field should be secured, and for this purpose he would urge the starting of a Church Extension Fund, so that aid might be rendered to those who desired to have a church home of their own. Another matter that required attention was the Sunday School portion of the field. He regretted to notice from the statistics that this part of the field was somewhat neglected. He thought this required attention and that the services of a specialist should be obtained in the shape of a Sunday School evangelist. The best results in the shape of additions to the church came from this source. It should therefore receive our best attention.

H. G. Harward spoke on "The Seed." He said in our review of our work in the past year we may be thankful for the work which our leaders have done. Much had been done, but much more remained to be done. Throughout this State there were vast tracts of country which had not been ploughed, and the seed had not been sown. It was an inexorable law of nature that if the seed was not sown there could be no results. What was true in nature was also true in religion. To make this country yield an abundant spiritual harvest the seed must be sown. That seed was the incorruptible Word of God. He wanted them to think of the splendid quality of the seed. He was thankful that while the natural seed might be improved, the divine seed could not. He did not think that we fully appreciated the splendid heritage into which we had entered as sowers of the incorruptible seed of truth. He wanted them not only to think of the splendid quality of the seed, but also of its productivity. There

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1905.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.					CHURCH LOSSES.			MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				Church Additions from Sunday School	MISSION FUNDS.					Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship	Average Attendance at Preaching Services	Isolated Brethren on Church Roll	
	Members	Faith and Obedience	Letter	Baptized Believers	Restoration	Letter.	Death	Removal & Roll revision	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scholars	Teachers	Teachers		Victoria, including Annual Collections	Foreign, including Special Collections	Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting							
Ascot Vale...	1904 113	7	13			2	2	1	1905 132	19		1904 195	1905 200	1904 19	1905 18	4	£ 15	s. 3	d. 10	£ 6	s. 11	d. 6	250	75	180	
*Archerton ..	2								2																	
Bairnsdale ..	15			1				1	15								1	0	0	0	16	0	100	9	6	
Ballarat East ..	37					4	5	8	20		17	36		4								200	15	20		
Ballarat West ..	144	3	1			5	2	34	107		37	95	84	9	9		9	4	0	4	0	6	150	60	90	
Bendigo & Golden Sq.	283	29	5			4	4	2	39		7	264	414	22	25	5	18	12	6	7	2	0	500	90	450	10
Bet Bet ..	74	3				2	1		74			48	50	7	5		8	19	7	5	5	0	100	40		
Berwick ..	132	2	5			12	3		124		8	68	60	4	4		7	10	0	10	11	6	150	70	80	18
Brighton ..	89	55	6	4		3	3		153	64		120	180	16	17	46	13	12	1	17	2	6	350	90	160	4
Brim ..	30	4	4						38	8		25	27	4	5	2	4	0	0	3	5	0	180	22	80	
*Broadmeadows ..	9								9																	
Buninyong ..	12	4	2					1	17	5							0	10	0	0	10	0	150	10		
Brunswick ..	232	17	19			6		26	236	4		222	287	17	23	10	13	7	7	4	1	6	280	110	250	18
*Benjeroop ..	6								6																	
Ballandella ..	5	2							7	2		2	5	1	1											
Bayswater ..	28	2	1						30	2		17	19	3	3		4	10	0	2	8	3	100	22	30	
Bordertown (S. A.) ..	49		1			1		1	43			20	20	3	3		2	12	0				120	20	35	3
Barker's Creek ..	64	9	1	6		6		1	85	21		95	84	10	10	4	2	14	3	1	6	7	120	42	80	16
Blackburn ..									18	18													300	14		
Carlton, Lygon-street	454	60	17	4		19	5	27	484	30		300	208	19	22		42	17	8	10	0	0	550	190	350	
Carlton, North ..	55	2				9		10	40		15	190	105	13	9	1	1	11	1	0	5	0	450	50	350	1
Collingwood ..	107	11	7	2		5		249	131		36	272	240	23	21	4	4	19	0	1	0	0				
Cheltenham ..	215	13	5			3		215	213		2	160	160	17	16	5	11	3	9	7	1	0	300	100	200	
Castlemaine ..	67	44	7	2		3		9	113	46		84	94	7	9	6	2	7	6	3	12	0	150	62	81	5
Cosgrove ..	17								17														170	7	25	
Croydon ..	55	2	2			1			58	3		59	53	4	4		0	12	0				100	20	40	7
Colac ..	16	3	1					1	16														250	12		
Carew, S. A. ..	65	8	2			2		1	72	7		44	37	3	3	3	2	4	3				80			6
Doncaster ..	184	7	6			12		1	184			160	165	11	11	5	12	12	3	21	7	0	200			
Dunmunkle ..	21								17		4	13	15	3	2		1	15	0	2	2	6	100	10	30	
Dunolly ..	36	3	1					4	36			8	8	2	2		3	18	5				80	25	35	
Drummond ..	53					2		1	50		3	28		4	0		1	7	6	0	10	0	60	20	25	
Dandenong ..	18	54	6	10		9			79	61					5		6	18	1	1	8	0	200	61	100	
Daylesford ..	12	1							13	1																
Emerald ..	48	7	7			6		5	51	3		25	30	2	3	4	3	13	6	3	3	0	75	35	45	4
Echuca ..	80	9				2		127	59		21	49	53	5	6		0	8	6	0	14	6	80	25	30	9
Fitzroy ..	194	38	9	2		2		14	215	21		200	200	20	20	23	10	2	0	0	5	0	300	120	230	16
Fitzroy N. & Northcote	474	30	21	9		3		29	424	10		479	504	39	41	15	44	4	6	5	15	11	400	210	300	5
Fairfield Park ..	41	6	8			2		1	46			29	8	2	3	3	2	2	4	1	4	10	30	25		
Footscray ..	125	34	5	1		10		2	153	28		154	221	18	17	5	3	1	0	0	10	0	350	90	250	
*Fernihurst ..	15								15								0	10	0							
Geelong ..	51	3	2			5			51			30	30	6	6								100	12	20	
Galaquill ..	30								19		11	16	19	4	3		1	0	0	6	0	6	60	5		4
Hawthorn ..	263	29	16			23		1	284	21		170	142	15	15	6	50	6	8	18	9	4	350	185	150	
Homebush ..	3								4								1	0	0							
Horsham ..	45	5	4						42		3	33	40	3	4		1	0	0	1	2	7	100	17	40	4
Hopetoun ..	8								8			3														
Kaniva ..	111	10							121	10		36	38	3	3	2	9	18	10	4	6	9	100	40	80	
Kyabram ..	31		8						39	8		18	18	2	2								80	20	20	5
Kerang East ..	11	1						2	10		1						3	16	0	1	5	0	20	7		
Lancefield ..	12	5				1		1	17	5																
Lillimur ..	54	5				2		1	56	2							1	15	6	2	15	9	100	32	50	
Lake Rowan ..	13	2							15								5	0	0	4	0	0				
*Mumble Plains ..	10								10																	
Melb'rne, Swanston-st	196	24	6			8		1	217	21		110	120	16	16	18	164	14	9	67	6	0	450	135	270	
Melbourne North ..	285	15	3	2		13		4	288	3		409	250	26	19	1	3	7	6	2	14	3	300	100	300	6
Melbourne, South ..	71					128			43		28	186	100	14	12		2	11	6	1	13	0	250	22	60	
Maryborough ..	87	7	6			17		220	61		26	105	64	9	9	1	2	9	0	2	1	3	160	36	100	2
Mount Clear ..	4								4			22	18	1	1		0	11	0				100	3		
Mooroolbark ..	21		2	5				1	27	6		20	24	3	3		1	0	6	2	16	0	35	13	20	2
Miepoll .. (toun)	2								2																	
Maidavale (nr. Hope)	13	1				2		2	10		3						1	14	0				100	8	30	
Malvern ..	77		5			12		1	62		15	80		9			11	0	0				75	20	25	
Minyip ..	6		3			2			7	1		21	35	3	3		0	10	0	0	10	0	10	5		
Mildura ..	63	5				1		2	62		1	42	49	6	8		0	17	6	1	10	0	150	30	50	
Mystic Park ..	7	1							8	1		4	10	1	1</											

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1905.—Continued.

940, or an average of about nine for each church. This he did not consider to be apostolic in its character, as the average was too low. Gibbon, the historian, told us that when Christianity was making its greatest successes, the secret of it was that every new convert made sought to win others. Bro. Harward had anticipated him in his motto of "Each one win one." He was glad he had done so. The second lesson that he would seek to impress upon himself and others was that joy in the great harvest scene yet to come would be in proportion to what he and they had done in the saving of souls. It would be a sad thing for anyone to have to confess in that day that he or she had not won one for Christ. The third lesson he would impress upon them was that the example of Christ and his apostles, and the shortness of the time, demanded of us a more complete consecration. When we looked around us and saw the evil which abounded, should it not move us to do greater deeds for Christ? Opportunities came to us day by day, which if not seized upon at once, did not come again. We must seize these opportunities as they come if we would have the full joy of harvest. Brethren, the harvest is the end of the age—but the end is not yet.

After the singing of a hymn and pronouncing the benediction, a very impressive meeting was brought to a close.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

Saturday evening was Foreign Mission Night, and after a song service conducted by E. W. Pittman, the President took the chair, and the meeting was opened by singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and prayer by H. G. Harward.

The secretary, F. M. Ludbrook, gave a verbal report of some of the work done by the missionaries laboring under the Conference. He said that with the exception of Bro. James, none of the missionaries were present, so that they could not present the same array of workers as our Home Mission friends. He would say, God bless the work among the Chinese. What we were doing here gave us some idea of what the work was like in China. The work, too, in connection with the Kanakas was progressing. The reports were very favorable. Bro. Thompson was indomitable in his work, and seemed determined, in spite of malaria, to go back to the Islands. The work in China was moving on, and Miss Tonkin said that now was a favorable time for good work. As for Japan he would not say much, as Bro. Davey was expected to be with us soon and would give an account of what was being done there. He bespoke for Bro. Davey a real Australian welcome. In connection with India, he would mention first Miss Thompson, our first worker in the mission field. She was doing a grand work.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.				CHURCH LOSSES.			MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.					Church Additions from Sunday School	MISSION FUNDS.			Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship	Average Attendance at Preaching Services	Isolated Brethren on Church Roll
	Members	Faith and Obsecution	Letter	Baptized Believers	Letter.	Death	Removal & Roll revised	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scholars	Teachers	Teachers	Victoria, including Annual Collections		Foreign, including Special Collections.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Runnymede East ..	1904 8							1905 8			1904 25	1905 32	2	4	4		2 0 0	1 4 0					
Shepparton ..	31	4			13	2		118	48		90	111	10	10	11		10 12 4	8 17 0					
South Yarra ..	70	37	20	6	9	1	3	59	4		59	59	7	7	2					60	30	45	
St. Kilda ..	55	11	3	3	9	1	3	93	13		32	30	4	3	2		30 5 3	1 14 2					
Surrey Hills ..	80	18	7	2	110	1	4	53	53			35	5							150	65	100	
St. Arnaud ..		43		10				8		3	20		3					1 0 0		200			
Toolamba ..	11				3			30	9		24	26	3	4	1		1 5 0	1 7 0		300	18	30	2
Taradale ..	21	6	3		2	2		8		8								1 10 0					
Thorpdale ..	8																						
Terang ..		40	11	1				52	52		62		8		2			8 0 0		250	35	70	
Warmur West ..	34							34			17		1	1			1 2 0	8 0 0		50	24	30	4
Warragul ..	12		8					20	8		10		2				1 0 0	0 12 0					
Warrnambool ..	31							26		5	21	16	4	4			1 2 9	1 3 0		300	10	10	8
Wedderburn ..	176	7			4	1	7	172		4	81	92	9	9			3 17 6	4 4 4		180	65	10	
Williamstown ..	225	14	1		7	1	50	182	43	187	150	14	15				2 8 9	2 1 6		300	80	150	31
*Yarrowalla ..	3							3															3
*Yanac North ..	28							28			18	18	2	2				0 3 0					
*Yando..	9							9															
Totals ..	7192	940	351	125	44	398	74	564	7616	794	370	6477	6478	592	624	262				13230	3388	6347	285

* These Churches entered same as last year, no official returns having been received.
Amounts acknowledged as received from Churches include all contributions, whether received from Churches or individual members of Churches.
Increase in Church Membership, 424. Increase in S. S. Scholars, 1. Increase in S. S. Teachers, 32.

So was Bro. Stubbin. He came in contact with large audiences, and was sowing seed that would by-and-by be reaped bountifully. In South Africa, at Bulawayo, our Australian brother—Bro. Sherriff—had taken early possession of the field, and everyone spoke highly of what he was doing there. He was glad to say that all the States were now in line, and that we were now a united Australasian Foreign Mission.

Sister McGregor, from South Australia, said she felt it to be a great honor to represent the S.A. Foreign Mission Committee. She had enjoyed our Conference very much, and had received great kindness from the sisters. The greeting she brought from S.A. was found in 1 Thess. 3: 12, 13.

R. Lyall said that it would be noticed from the balance sheet that they were £113 behind on the general fund. This was not owing to any extravagance on the part of the Committee, but from circumstances over which they had no control. Their chief work this year in Victoria had been among the Chinese. We have provided a handsome mission hall, in which the Chinese hold a church meeting every Lord's day morning. It was desirable to reduce the debt on the building, and this they proposed to do gradually, paying off at least £50 a year. He would therefore urge the brethren to greater liberality.

The great feature of the evening was the illustrated lecture given by J. Inglis Wright on the mission fields of the world. It has seldom, if ever, been the lot of a Melbourne audience to have had presented to them so comprehensive a survey of the dark places of earth and their need of evangelisation. For over two hours, Bro. Wright presented to his large audience a vast array of diagrams which set forth the progress of Christianity in various foreign fields throughout the world. Both by the living tongue and the silent

picture, he graphically set before his audience the immense disproportion between the work done and that which still remained to be done. The lecture was eloquent and educational, and very forcibly brought home to the brethren the claims which the foreign field has upon them.

During the evening a number of the Chinese sang, "When We Get Home," which was well received.

The meeting closed with the benediction.

THE PICNIC.

The Conference Picnic this year was held at Survey Paddock, and was attended by a large number. The weather was threatening, but there was no rain, most of the people staying till dusk, when they left for the Endeavor Demonstration at the Masonic Hall, which was a fitting conclusion to a fine Conference.

Conference Notes.

Mr. Keith Ewen gave a most enthusiastic address at the temperance meeting.

J. G. Barrett made a good and dignified chairman at the temperance demonstration.

We heard at least one new yarn, if indeed not two, at the temperance meeting on Thursday night.

Mr. W. H. Judkins gave a most helpful and interesting address at the temperance meeting on Thursday night.

Friday morning dawned bright and glorious. It was an ideal morning, and from start to finish we had a beautiful day.

The address of H. G. Harward at the Home Mission meeting was a great effort, worthy of the occasion on which it was delivered.

The programme arranged by the Temperance Committee for the demonstration at the Masonic Hall was a success, from the standpoint of an entertainment.

At the Home Mission meeting the collection amounted to £26 and the promises to £67.

H. P. Leng told a good story and incidentally made a good speech at the Friday afternoon meeting.

The Friday morning prayer meeting conducted by E. J. Waters and T. J. Cook was most inspiring and helpful.

H. G. Harward gave a most helpful address during the reports of the Home Mission workers on Friday afternoon.

Our Chinese brethren were well represented at the Conference picnic, and seemed to enter into the spirit of the gathering.

The responses at the Endeavor meeting at the Masonic Hall on Monday evening were very interesting and appropriate.

The Conference passed a most hearty and enthusiastic vote of thanks to the sisters for the splendid help rendered during the year.

E. W. Pittman, one of our Home Mission workers, is not much on making a speech, but he is great on the singing, so he sang his report.

Miss McGregor of South Australia brought greetings to the Foreign Mission meeting on Saturday night, from the Foreign Mission Committee of that State.

The Home Mission meeting at the Masonic Hall on Friday night closed at 9.40. It was a great meeting, and its greatness was added to by the sensible hour it was closed.

A. Meldrum gave a good address at the Home Mission meeting. His theme was "The Field," and he placed before us the glories of the fields for gospel work around us.

We are glad to note that there is a growing tendency on the part of our Annual Conferences to make them Home and Foreign Mission meetings. This is as it ought to be.

H. G. Harward stated during the discussion on S. S. Union report that Bro. Pittman and himself had organised Bible Schools in all the new fields where they had labored.

We were always under the impression that A. W. Connor was an Irishman, but was surprised on Friday afternoon to hear that he is a real live Scotchman. We feel greatly relieved.

The address of the President, Dr. James Cook, was quiet, but full of power and hope. The influence of an address of the kind is very great at the opening of a meeting like that on Friday last.

J. Inglis Wright made a telling speech during the progress of the Foreign Mission report on Friday afternoon in favor of an Australasian Mission in some of the open heathen fields of the world.

James Hunter and P. A. Dickson of N.S.W., J. Inglis Wright of N.Z., and W. Barrett of Pretoria, South Africa, were on the platform during the Friday morning's session, and made a few remarks.

The picnic on Monday was a fine gathering, notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather. The number present was not so large as we have seen, but the meeting was thoroughly enjoyable.

James Johnston gave a most interesting demonstration of the method of conducting a teachers' preparation class, which gave rise to a fine discussion. This was in connection with the Sunday School Union.

There was an interesting discussion on Saturday morning on the education question, in which F. G. Dunn, G. P. Pittman, W. C. Craigie, James Johnston, John T. T. Harding and J. Inglis Wright took part.

One of the choruses at the C.E. meeting on Monday night was just a little elevated in tune, but, Endeavor like, the meeting took it up and followed it to the top.

We do not know what we would do without F. M. Ludbrook to give us the Foreign Mission report. We should not like to attempt to unravel his notes, but he knows all about them and brings them out straight.

As we listened to our Home Mission workers on Friday afternoon, we felt proud of the whole of them. They are a fine lot of men and deserving of the greatest confidence and love of the entire brotherhood.

There was a very breezy discussion on Saturday morning over the programme presented at the Temperance Demonstration at the Masonic Hall on Thursday evening. The atmosphere was cleared up considerably.

The congregational singing during the Conference was most hearty and helpful. After all is said and done, congregational singing cannot be beaten much even if an unmusical brother should burst up a note occasionally.

We are under great obligations to F. G. Dunn for very much help in preparing the report of the Victorian Conference which appears in this issue. Only those who have undertaken a work of this kind know of the difficulties.

The open-air meeting at the picnic was a great success. H. G. Harward presided, F. M. Ludbrook led the singing, and short practical addresses were delivered by A. W. Connor, J. Inglis Wright, W. McCance, H. P. Leng and P. J. Pond.

Encores at the public meetings are a perfect nuisance, and should be abolished. More than one of our meetings was simply spoiled by them. Not only is it unfair to others who take part, but the meetings are prolonged to most unholy hours.

The catering of the sisters has always been excellent. This year they excelled themselves. Just how they could give so much for so little is known only to their wise selves. The supply of very fine fruit was abundant. We are afraid that we are all apt to forget sometimes how much we owe the good sisters for the success of our Conference meetings.

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.

Rescue Home Sunday, May 7th.

W. Smedley arrived at Fremantle, W.A., on April 17th.

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 7TH. Help urgently needed. Treasury empty.

H. G. Harward's town address for the present is 253 Rae-st., North Fitzroy.

"Austral Songs" contains the cream from our American song publications.

Preachers will find fine gospel hymns to suit their sermons in "Austral Songs."

One confession at Leederville, W.A., on April 16th, Bro. Ball preaching.

P. A. Dickson preached to a large audience at Lygon-st. on Sunday evening.

Bible Schools looking for good anniversary pieces will find plenty in "Austral Songs."

Taken by mistake from dressing-room, Lygon-st.—a neck fur. Kindly return to caretaker.

Two were received in at French Island, Vic., on April 16th, as a result of faith and obedience.

Churches desiring to make the song service bright, helpful and devotional, get "Austral Songs."

One confession at Subiaco, W.A., on April 16th. Bro. Banks is preaching to very large audiences.

J. Inglis Wright, of N.Z., spoke at Lygon-st. on Sunday morning and at Nth. Carlton in the evening.

The report of the Endeavor meeting held in connection with the Victorian Conference will appear next week.

At South Dunedin, N.Z., on April 16th, one came forward before a fairly large audience, S. J. Mathison preaching.

The Burwood Boys' Dorcas rally will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd, in Swanston-st. lecture hall, from 10 a.m.

We regret to record the sudden death of Thomas Haines, in his 98th year. He was the father of our Sister Craigie.

At Port Pirie, S.A., one was received in on April 16th. Two confessions on Thursday following, W. Moffit preaching.

Fifth night of mission at Blackburn, Vic., last Monday. Two confessions, making nine to date. Audiences increasing.

Good gospel meetings at Ponsonby-rd., Auckland. One restored to fellowship on Sunday, 9th, and on the 16th two confessions.

On Sunday week there was one confession at Williamstown, and last Sunday one more. H. G. Peacock is preaching there to large audiences.

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 7TH. We ask every church for a collection. £250 required to meet present year's expenses. Save the girls!

Sisters' Conference Executive new representatives, please note. Monthly meeting will be held Friday, May 5th, lecture hall, Swanston-st., 3 p.m.

North Fremantle church now meets in the Rechabite Hall. Thos Hagger is preaching there for a Sunday or two while in town for Conference.

We have received the following amounts for the W. W. Davey fund:—Bro. Boyle, 2/6; W. Burgess, 2/6; J. Proctor, 5/-; "A Sister," Middle Bridge, 10/-.

Attention is directed to notice in "Coming Events" of church anniversary at Balmmain-street, Richmond. It will prove profitable study to see and hear how that go-ahead church works.

The Treasurer of the Tasmanian H.M. Committee acknowledges with thanks the sum of £1 towards the fund, this being a contribution (through W. J. Phillips) from isolated brethren at Burnie.

From the Bible Advocate we learn that Mrs. John Nimmo, widow of the late John Nimmo, died on March 21st. Bro. and Sister Nimmo were well known to many of our Australian brethren.

A. L. Gibson said some good things at the North Carlton chapel on Sunday night last in answering a question from the question box—"Where was Christ's life during his three days in the tomb?" Bro. Gibson is more interested in the state of the living than in that of the dead.

For a good collection of gospel solos, duets and quartettes see "Austral Songs."

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 7TH. Twenty inmates to support. No funds in hand.

Lovers of good sacred music are advised to look up Dr. McBurney's compositions in "Austral Songs."

The Secretary of the Tasmanian H.M. Committee acknowledges with thanks the sum of £1/5/- (being proceeds of "mite boxes," Launceston brethren).

There was a large attendance at Lygon-street on Sunday last, both morning and evening. Dinner was provided during the day in the lecture hall for delegates and visitors from a distance, upwards of 80 availing themselves of this privilege.

Good meetings at Echuca on April 16. In the morning 25 broke bread. Bro and Sister Marsh, of Geelong, were present. At night the gospel service was well attended, and by way of a change short addresses were given by Bren. Parslow, Stephenson and Mason, the visible results being 2 young people confessed Christ.

A mission will start at York, W.A., on May 21st. In all probability this will be followed by a similar effort at Northam. Any isolated brethren in W.A., who are willing to help bear the expenses of these efforts please communicate with Thos. Hagger, Subiaco. Primitive Christianity must be established in these and in other towns. The prayers of all are sought.

MAY 7, '05.

The work of the Rescue Home conducted by Bro. and Sister J. Pittman is one about which we hear but little, in fact about which little can be said, but it is none the less important on that account. On the first Sunday in May a modest and quiet appeal is made, and we trust that a liberal response will be made. If you want fuller particulars, write to Joseph Pittman, Armadale, Victoria.

C.A.W. writes from Lismore, N.S.W.:—"Last Sunday, April 16th, before the morning service, C. Bostock and E. Shelton were baptised. Both live a great distance from Lismore, and their addition is the result of the country work carried on by the brethren. At night Mr. Myson was baptised, and this is directly due to our church paper, the *Friendly Visitor*, being sent out each month, and the presentation of our plea in its pages."

Just over a year ago the new chapel building at Balmain-st., Richmond, was opened. Since then 108 confessions have been joyfully heard. Progress will now be checked again by want of room. In view of this the evangelist, P. J. Pond, has laid before the elders and deacons the only visible course to secure the extension of the building, viz., for him to go away for a six months' trip, during which time all contributions shall go into church extension fund. The suggestion was not received with favor, but it will be further discussed at annual church meeting next month.

J. C. Dickson, B.A., from America, contemplates making a visit to Australia, and might be secured in holding a few protracted meetings. He has made a careful study of protracted meetings as they are con-

ducted in the United States of America, has held successful ones, understands their strong and weak points, and so would be able to help churches needing such help. Any churches in N.Z. could address him at the P.O., Auckland (general delivery), and churches in Australia at 98 Stanmore-road, Stanmore, Sydney. He expects to be free from engagements in America, leaving San Francisco in May if possible. He could help the N.Z. churches needing help on reaching N.Z., and then come on to Australia. Here is a good opportunity to have the churches stirred up and many saved.

H. J. Gilmour of Sydney, N.S.W., writes:—"On April 13 the teachers and scholars and a few friends of the Chinese Mission bade farewell to Sister Stella Kingsbury (one of our faithful workers for some years), who was about to leave for America. Lessons were stopped somewhat earlier than usual. The president called on various brethren and sisters to speak a few words, which they did, expressing their appreciation of her character and work, also their good wishes for her future. Bro. Newby then presented Miss Kingsbury with a dressing-case, as a token of the love and esteem with which teachers and scholars regard her. Sister Gilmour expressed her love in the form of a bunch of flowers and a few remarks. Sister Kingsbury responded with a beautiful speech."

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Acknowledgments.

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

ARMADALE RESCUE HOME.

Received since Jan. 1, with thanks—

Church, Kyabram, collected by Miss Morgan and Mrs. Simpson	£0 14 6
Church, Greymouth, N.Z.	2 10 0
Church, Daylesford (few members)	1 0 0
Church, Nantawarra, S.A.	1 3 0
Miss Stevens, W.A.	0 10 0
Mrs. Heath, Mount Clear	0 2 0
Mrs. A. E. Gowan, Mount Clear	0 0 6
Mrs. Butler, Mungindi, N.S.W.	1 0 0
Mr. L. Martin, Apollo Bay	0 6 3
Mrs. R. Butler, Tindinna, Mungindi, N.S.W.	0 7 6
Mrs. E. Etchells, Lilydale, Tas.	1 0 0
Christian Helper, Invercargill, N.Z.	1 0 0
Mrs. W. Crosthwaite, Hornby, N.S.W.	0 10 0
Miss C. A. Gowan, Mount Clear	0 2 6
Mr. W. Rich, Bordertown, S.A.	1 0 0
Mrs. E. Wilson, Doncaster	1 0 0
Mr. Geo. Duncan, Warrington, N.Z.	0 10 0
Mrs. Wm. Taylor	0 1 0
Mrs. Baker, Prahran	2 0 0
Mr. John Verco, S.A.	4 4 0
Mr. S. H. Mudge, Kaniva	0 2 6
Mr. W. Cust, Surrey Hills	1 1 0
Mr. T. Rhodes, Tocumwal, N.S.W.	0 10 0
A Sister	1 0 0
Mr. M. C. Thorn, Walhalla, proceeds of flowering balsams raised for purpose	0 15 0
Mr. Robt Smyth, Wangaratta	1 0 0
Collected by Miss A. Hagger, Clifton Hill	0 14 6
Sisters' Executive, Victoria	1 1 0

£25 5 3

Armadale.

J. PITTMAN.

Coming Events

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

APRIL 30 & MAY 1.—Cheltenham Church Anniversary. Brethren everywhere are invited. A great treat is promised. Tea on the tables on Monday evening at 6 o'clock.

APRIL 30 & MAY 2.—The Brunswick School Anniversary Services will be held in the Town Hall on April 30th. Afternoon at 3, F. M. Ludbrook; 7 p.m., P. A. Dickson. Tuesday, May 2, Entertainment and Distribution of Prizes. Good programme. Special singing by scholars, under leadership of J. H. Barnden.

MAY 7 & 9.—Anniversary Celebrations of Church at Balmain-st., Richmond, on Sunday, May 7, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. All invited. Great Tea on Tuesday, 9th, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults, 1/- Grand Public Meeting and Demonstrations of Church Work, 8 p.m. Addresses by A. B. Maston and others. Free.

MAY 15.—The Christian Endeavor Society at Fremantle will hold their Anniversary on May 15th, 1905. Any communications please send to H. A. Verco, Secretary, 42 Tuckfield-st., Fremantle.

JUNE 11, 13 & 15.—North Melbourne Sunday School Anniversary. Sunday afternoon and evening, Singing by the children. Tuesday, Singing, Recitations and Dialogues, Distribution of Prizes. Thursday, Tea Meeting and Lantern Entertainment. C.M.

MEMORY.—Fees refunded if anyone of average ability, with my New System, cannot speak entirely without notes.—J. H. STEVENS, B.A., 145 Collins-st.

Pamphlets Worth Reading.

1. Church Finance.
2. Sincerity Seeking the Way to Heaven.
3. The Resurrection.
4. The Destiny of the Wicked.
5. Infidelity and Freethought.
6. Elements of Divine Truth.

Foreign Mission Fund, Federal Statement.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Balance on 31st March, 1904	£31	5	6	India —Salaries to 31st March, 1905—			
New South Wales —				Miss Mary Thompson	£104	0	0
From Churches, Members, Endeavor				F. E. Stubbin and Mrs Stubbin	175	0	0
Societies and Sunday Schools, received				Allowance, Medical and other Expenses ..	20	0	0
by New South Wales Committee (in-				M. J. Shah, Native Evangelist (including Travelling Expenses)	40	0	0
cluding £64/7 advanced by Treasurer)	127	18	10	Yakub Masih, Native Evangelist	25	0	0
From Churches and other Contributions,							364 0 0
Received Direct	5	13	0	Benevolent Work —			
			133 11 10	Sent for Orphanage and Charitable Work to—			
New Zealand —				Miss Mary Thompson, From Victoria ..	3	0	0
From Churches, Members, Sunday Schools,				From South Australia	1	15	0
etc., received per Auckland Committee	46	16	0	(S.A. also sent other money direct)			
From Churches, Members, Sunday Schools,				From New South Wales	11	15	6
etc., received per Wellington Com-	32	0	0	From Western Australia	8	5	11
mittee				F. E. Stubbin	10	0	0
From Churches, Members, Sunday Schools,	38	15	0	David Rioch, Damoh, for support of Orphans and Students ..	43	0	0
Mission Bands, etc., Received Direct			117 11 0				77 16 5
Queensland —				China —Miss Rosa L. Tonkin, Salary July, 1904, to June, 1905 ..	120	0	0
From Churches, Sunday Schools, etc. ..			45 14 7	Salary of Bible Woman	15	0	0
South Australia —				Benevolent and Medical Work	17	15	0
From Churches, Members, Sunday Schools,				Benevolent and Medical Work, sent from Sydney ..	6	6	4
Mission Bands and Auxiliaries, per							159 1 4
S.A. Committee	280	16	8	Japan —Percy E. Davey, Salary to March 31st, 1905 ..	120	0	0
From Churches, Received Direct	4	0	4	W. D. Cunningham, from Victoria ..	5	0	0
			284 17 0	from South Australia	5	0	0
Tasmania —							130 0 0
From Churches and Members.. ..			16 8 7	Kanaka Mission —Queensland, John Thompson, Salary to March 31st, 1905	156	0	0
Western Australia —				Sent for Benevolent work	3	0	0
From Churches, Members, Sunday Schools,				New Hebrides, sent to Taby-Man-Con and five other Native Teachers ..	18	0	0
received per W.A. Committee	154	11	0				177 0 0
From Members, Received Direct	0	17	0	South Africa —John Sherriff, Buluwayo, for Building Fund ..	53	7	6
			155 8 0	for Benevolent Work	3	0	0
Victoria —				Towards Salary of Agrippa, Native Teacher ..	8	0	0
Churches and Members, received by Com-							64 7 6
mittee	309	5	5	Chinese Mission, Sydney —W. James, Salary for 6 months ..	52	0	0
From Sunday Schools	21	10	7	Expenses of Mission.. ..	14	10	0
From Endeavor Societies	21	6	6				66 10 0
From Mission Bands	14	10	0	Chinese Mission, Melbourne —Miss Abgan, Salary to Feb. 28th, 1905	48	5	0
Collection Victorian Conference, 1904 ..	17	16	9	W. James, Salary 27 weeks	54	0	0
Chinese Church of Christ Collections,				Expenses of Mission, Rent, etc. ..	48	19	8
Lord's Day Mornings	9	8	8	Interest on Mission Building	16	3	0
Proceeds Tea Meeting	32	1	0	Rates, Insurance, Gas, etc.	7	0	0
			425 18 11	Furniture and Matting	7	0	6
Balance—Bank Overdraft			113 18 1	Expenses, Tea Meeting	29	0	6
							210 8 8
			£1324 13 6	Charges —Printing, Melbourne	41	17	3
				Printing, Sydney	2	9	6
				Exchange	10	3	4
				Postage	1	13	6
				Subscriptions to Periodicals	4	18	0
				Expenses, A. C. Rankine, Visit to India ..	12	0	0
				Sundries	2	8	0
							75 9 7
							£1324 13 6

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Melbourne, March 4, 1905.

Audited and found correct,

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

CHINESE MISSION BUILDING FUND, MELBOURNE.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Contributions received from—				Cost of Land	£391	10	6
VICTORIA —				Cost of Building	848	2	0
Churches and Members	£121	5	4	Cost of Seats	62	5	0
Chinese Brethren	33	13	0				
(Note—£120 promised, but not yet received)							
			154 18 4				
SOUTH AUSTRALIA			100 5 0				
NEW SOUTH WALES —							
Members	6	0	0				
Chinese Brethren	24	3	0				
			30 3 0				
WESTERN AUSTRALIA			0 5 0				
NEW ZEALAND			3 0 0				
			288 11 4				
Balance—Debt on Building			1013 6 2				
			1301 17 6				1301 17 6

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Melbourne, March 4, 1905.

Audited and found correct,

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

Obituary

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

LEE.—A. G. Lee was one of the first who were brought to the knowledge of the truth as the result of our Park meetings. Having been nominally a member of the Church of England, he, years ago, abandoned her communion, driven away by the empty formalism he saw around him everywhere. One day, hearing us singing and preaching in the Western Park, he suggested to his wife that they go in and see "who those people are," the result being that he was led to the chapel, and after attending for a few months, came out for Christ. On Sept. 13th, 1903, he was buried with his Lord in baptism, and the following Lord's day, along with his wife, who had been immersed among the Brethren, received into the fellowship of the church. From that time he took a warm interest in church work and especially the Park meetings. He led our open-air singing with his cornet. It was in the midst of this effort that our brother complained of feeling unwell, and developing certain symptoms was removed to the hospital, where he died of typhoid on the night of Saturday, 26th March, at the early age of 32 years. We extend our warmest sympathy to Sister Lee and her little ones, praying the Lord to bless them richly in their affliction.

Auckland, N.Z.

C.W.

RAWLINSON.—Another old pioneer, in the person of Mrs. Rawlinson, has gone to rest. Baptised at Barkly-st., she was thus one of those to come to Lygon-st. when it was opened. During the whole time, she was a faithful and consistent Christian. She was within a few days of 88 years of age. Happy to the end, she cast a halo round the Christian's death-bed. Her one cry for several days was, "Come, Lord, come." A visit to her would convince the most sceptical that she possessed something that made life a happy burden and death a happier release. It is such lives as our sister lived, and such deaths as our sister died, that testify to the influence and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The church has lost one of its patient, faithful, consistent members, and the family a good, kind and loving mother and grandmother. May God the Father of all, and Christ the Saviour of all, and the Holy Spirit the Comforter

of all, help church and family to be waiting and ready for the call to come up higher, even as our sister has left us example. Our sister was the mother of Mrs. Martin Zeliuss of Doncaster, Mrs. Cowley of North Fitzroy, and Mr. J. Furness of Ballarat. To them the church extends sincerest sympathy, and commends them to the source of all strength and comfort—our heavenly Father. Her call came on March 3rd, and on the 5th her mortal remains were laid in the last resting-place, looking and waiting for the general resurrection through Jesus Christ.

Carlton, V.

J.J.

SAVAGE.—Sister Savage fell asleep in Christ on Thursday night, April 13th. She was 37 years of age. She was a faithful woman, and whilst able met regularly with the church at York. She was baptised, on a confession of her faith, by the writer, November 29th, 1903. She was unable, through ill-health, to take an active part in the work, but she did what she could. That dreaded disease, consumption, claimed her as a victim. She suffered greatly, but never lost faith in Christ. She was released from all pain near the end of this life, and peacefully passed to her reward. She leaves a husband and three little children, parents, brother and sisters to mourn their loss. To them we extend words of sympathy, and with our hearts we say, We feel for you. We commend them to the Lord Jesus. We laid the mortal remains of the deceased to rest in the Beverley Cemetery, April 15th, in the presence of a large number of persons.

York, S.A.

H. J. HORSELL.

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Balance Sheet to April 7th, 1905.

RECEIPTS.

1904.—December

30th—Receipts to date	..	£168	13	3
1905.—January				
3rd—Henley Beach Church	..	2	5	3
4th—Georgetown Church	..	1	0	0
6th—Kadina Church	..	15	0	0
9th—Grote-st. Church	..	23	14	9
10th—Stirling East Church	..	9	0	0
Goolwa Church	..	0	15	1
Saddleworth Church	..	7	4	6
North Adelaide Church	..	15	18	1
11th—Bews Church	..	8	0	0
Point Sturt Church	..	2	13	0
Mallala Church	..	6	12	10
12th—Willunga Church	..	3	0	0
Long Plains Church	..	9	0	0
14th—Alma Church	..	28	2	6
16th—Norwood Church	..	10	0	0
Bro. McGlashan, Teal Flat	..	1	0	0
Strathalbyn Church	..	1	0	0
North Adelaide 1d week Collection	..	1	17	0
17th—Kadina Church, Special Collection	..	1	13	0
Willunga Church	..	0	18	9
18th—Moonta Church	..	1	0	0
24th—Milang Church	..	2	8	3
Unley	..	7	0	7
31st—Willunga	..	3	0	0
Thos. Hair, Clear Lake, Victoria	..	1	1	0
Balaklava	..	2	3	9
W. J. Harris	..	0	15	0
Lochiel Church	..	1	10	0
York Church	..	2	13	6
Goolwa Church	..	0	3	0

February

3rd—Sister L. Carmichael	..	1	0	0
7th—Hindmarsh Church	..	5	0	0
Millicent Church	..	0	10	0
Williamstown Mission Band	..	0	14	0
17th—Balance, Town Hall Tea	..	2	18	5
19th—Dalkey Church	..	5	6	6
22nd—J. H. Yelland	..	2	0	0
C. Howard	..	10	0	0

March

6th—Returns on Rail Tickets	..	1	16	3
8th—Cottonville Church	..	0	12	0
13th—Norwood Sisters	..	0	10	0
22nd—Grote-st. (additional)	..	0	9	3
31st—Willunga Church	..	3	0	0

April

3rd—Moonta Church	..	1	4	3
Wm. Charlick	..	5	0	0
5th—Saddleworth Church	..	0	6	6

Total Receipts £379 10 3

April

7th—Total Payments to date	..	£416	1	9
Total Receipts to date	..	379	10	3

Debit Balance £36 11 6

MEMO.—All salaries and accounts are paid to date. The Committee will require £320 more to pay all obligations up to next Conference.

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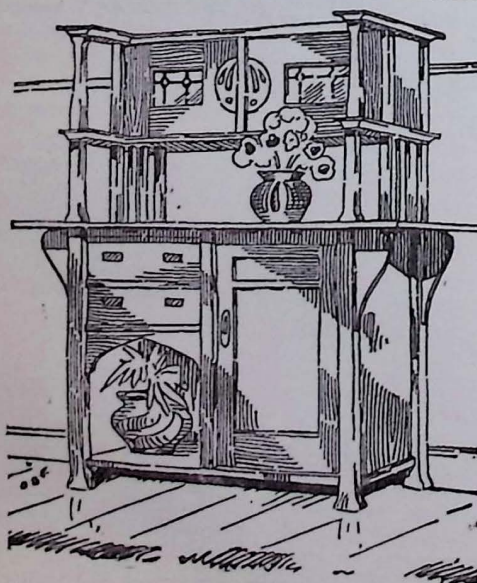
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CHAPTER XVI.

THE SEQUEL.

The next morning the Town Hall was filled at an early hour, for all wished to hear the concluding speeches of the debate. Rachel was again present. She did not sit with her father, but with the other ladies, quite to the other side of the house. She did not notice Stephen or me in any way, but I saw that she bowed to my mother, and presently exchanged a few words with her. I do not know whether or not the Colonel would have considered my gentle mother "an Arrondale."

I had wondered that Mr. Lemmerman, after claiming to set aside the authenticity of the Scriptures and the authority of Christ, should have cared to discuss the question of a future life. Stephen had taken it, as I learned afterward, that he would discuss merely such evidences of the continuance of life as exist in nature and in the human reason, and had prepared himself quite carefully on these points.

But what Mr. Lemmerman had desired was merely a new point for his attack on Christianity. He began as he had begun the day before, with coarse ridicule and sarcasm. A good God these Christians must have, indeed, to create immortal souls, and then damn them for his own glory! A beneficent law, indeed, which condemned the innocent and the guilty to suffer for the vindication of a righteous God!

His attack was, of course, quite foreign to the question as it had been stated; but it dealt with matters which, though seldom touched upon in these days, were of vital interest then. Stephen was on the alert in a moment. My father's keen old eyes twinkled. Indeed, I had often, in days gone by, heard him argue these questions with far more fairness and intelligence than Horatio Lemmerman was capable of showing.

It was a great day. From nine in the morning until four in the afternoon the battle was on. Yesterday Stephen had had all Christian believers with him. To-day the large proportion of them stood aloof, shocked at the coarse atheism of Stephen's

opponent, indeed, but scarcely less shocked at the audacity of the bold-fronted young "Campbellite" who dared to condemn as unscriptural and misleading many doctrines which they had venerated from childhood—aye, that had come to them as part of the inheritance for which their forefathers had died.

"You say," he told his antagonist, "that Christianity stands for the sovereignty of a tyrant. I tell you that the Holy Scriptures stand for the sovereignty of a loving Father, who has, in a beneficence which he will not revoke, bestowed upon each of his children the right of free and intelligent choice. In him is no caprice, no injustice. He lays hold upon none against their will, either for approval or condemnation. He has made known his will for us through his Son, in whom is eternal life. On each of us he lays the burden of choice. All doctrines concerning the whys and wherefores of God's gift of eternal life are mere speculations, and we have no right to bind them on any man. But it is our right and duty to set before every one life and death, blessing and cursing, that he may have the opportunity for choice. And by that choice God himself will abide."

By the will of the audience and permission of the moderator, each speaker was allowed three speeches, two each on the question of the day and one each for a general summary. Most of the people had brought lunch with them, and, during the recess, I noticed that they gathered together in little groups. The Baptists were by themselves, and so were the Presbyterians, and so were the Methodists. The few outspoken infidels gathered

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about Horatio Lemmerman and Colonel Sylvestre. Cady Vincent had said a word to Rachel, and then left the building. I saw him walk across the fields and into the woods beyond, and wondered why he had so suddenly come to prefer solitude.

At the conclusion of the debate Judge Oliphant made a long speech, in which he complimented both speakers, the Bible, atheism, the audience, and every other person and thing which he could call to mind. When he could think of nothing else, he said, "I believe our very profitable session is now at an end."

"Not quite. With your permission, Mr. Moderator, and that of the gentlemen who have engaged in this discussion, I wish to say a very few words."

I recognised the thin, clear voice at once. Cady Vincent, with a strange look of agitation upon his face, was making his way to the front.

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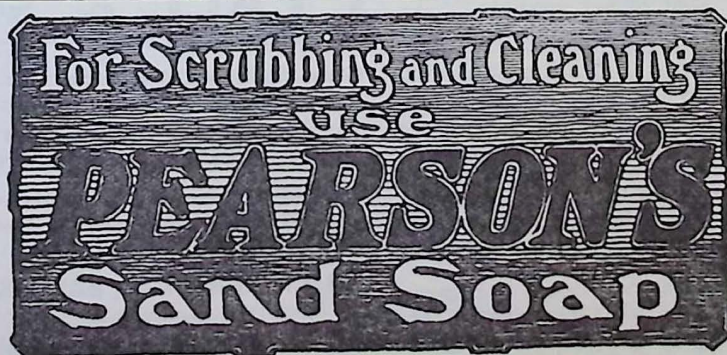
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"He is going to challenge Stephen to a debate on the question of eternal punishment," I said to myself. Probably the moderator thought the same thing, for he nodded with apparent comprehension as he said, "I am sure we are all willing to accord the gentleman the privilege for which he asks."

The look of agitation on Mr. Vincent's face deepened. "I wish to ask Mr. Arrondale a few questions," he said.

Stephen nodded, as if to intimate that he was ready to answer. I suspected that there was a trap, and that Colonel Sylvestre had baited it.

"You are identified, I am told, with a people who call themselves Christians, or disciples of Christ, but are sometimes called 'Campbellites' by their enemies?"

"I am."

"Is it true, as I have heard, that the people with whom you stand take the Holy Scriptures as their only rule of faith and practice?"

"It is."

"Is it true, as I have understood you to say during this debate, that of him who comes to the door of the church in apparently sincere repentance, you ask no question and demand no statement of doctrine beyond his avowal of his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God?"

"It is."

"Mr. Arrondale, I am known to this community as a Universalist preacher. Knowing me as such, would you receive me to baptism on such a simple confession of my faith as I have indicated?"

"I most certainly should, and thank God for the opportunity."

"Then this audience is entitled to an explanation, which I shall try to make as brief as possible. For six years I have been preaching Universalism. I realise now that my teaching has been not constructive, but destructive. It has been directed against doctrines which, as I believed, and still believe, rob God of some of his attributes as a loving and beneficent Father. But I now see that I have merely sought to overthrow the speculations of others with speculations of my own. I am not sure that, in all minor matters, I agree with the people known as disciples of Christ, but I am willing to recognise my obligation to examine all theories in the light of this one great central truth of the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, to speak where the Scriptures speak and to remain silent where they are silent. Mr. Arrondale, yesterday I was here to listen, to question, perhaps to criticise. To-day I am here to require baptism at your hands."

I had not liked Cady Vincent very well hitherto, but now my heart went out to him in a sudden gush of admiration. It seemed to me then, and it seems to me now, that his act was one of the bravest acts that I have ever known. No one could see him in the presence of Rachel Sylvestre and doubt his love for her. He had left ease and cultured associations in his Eastern home to be near her. Her father had given him every evidence of favor. Yet for conscience sake he had put all this aside—had arrayed himself with an unpopular people and against the woman he loved.

Colonel Sylvestre was on his feet now, his face purple with anger. "Mr. Moderator," he cried, "I regard this as an insult to Mr. Lemmerman and to this audience. This is no place for theatrical conversions. I move the adjournment of this meeting."

"Mr. Moderator," said Stephen, in a ringing voice, "there has always been, since the days of the apostles, a fitting place for such noble scenes as this, and that is at the waters of baptism. We will repair there immediately, and to this end I second Colonel Sylvestre's motion for an adjournment."

An adjournment it was indeed, for I believe that all, with the exception of Colonel Sylvestre and Horatio Lemmerman, went to the stream with Stephen and Mr. Vincent.

As my brother stepped down into the water I followed him, and slipped my hand into his. "I want to go first, Stephen," I said.

He had been under a great strain for several days, and his mind was naturally much engrossed. For a moment he looked as if he did not comprehend my meaning. Then a great gladness broke over his face.

"Dear old Joe!" he whispered; and again our lives were united and again our dreams were one.

There, standing in the stream, he took my confession—the confession of my honest but hot and wayward boyish heart. My eyes fill at that memory, and I can scarcely see the page on which I try to write. I have often, in hasty speech and action, dishonored the Lord I confessed that day, but I can say, after all these years, that the central purpose of my life has been true, even as it was true that day.

After he had baptised me, Stephen led Mr. Vincent down into the water and baptised him, and we three walked home together, while the audience dispersed, and the three of us sang together, softly:

"How happy are they
Who their Saviour obey."

"I hope you will make our home yours while you stay in this neighborhood," said my mother, hospitably. "I suppose you will scarcely feel at home with the Sylvestres after this."

"Scarcely," said Cady Vincent, smiling. He thanked my mother warmly for her kindness, but said no more about the Sylvestres. One little incident I myself might have told. As we stood near the water, just before the baptisms, Rachel had come and held out her hand to Mr. Vincent.

"Do you want to say good-bye?" she asked. "You cannot be father's friend after this, you know."

"But can I not be yours, Rachel?" he asked. The two were close beside me, and I could not but hear the words. "You are too just a woman to refuse friendship to a man because he follows his conscience."

Rachel lowered her eyes, then raised them again. "You are a brave man," she said. "I admire your courage, but I do not like your cause."

She turned away, and I looked after her in pity. My heart was full of tenderness to-day, and my resentment against Rachel was gone.

(To be Continued.)

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