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TASMANIAN CONFERENCE

APRIL 21, 1905.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Again in the providence of God we are permitted to meet and talk over the things pertaining to the kingdom of God's dear Son, and the efforts put forth by your Committee to forward the work of restoration to New Testament teaching and practice. We can only, in brief, say we have done what we could with the limited means at our disposal. And it will be for you to-day, after we have in detail placed the various items before you, to advise and suggest to the incoming Committee as to the work of the ensuing year, and also to individually resolve in your respective localities to support and influence others to help in the great work of Home Missions.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The Committee, which has worked at a great advantage since the reduction of the Home Missionary and Executive Committees to one, has held four business meetings during the year, the attendance of members being as follows:—A. W. Adams, 4; W. Clifford, 3; T. G. Prior, 4; S. Smith, 2; T. W. Smith, 4; G. Spaulding, 3; R. C. Tole (resident in Launceston), 0.

STATISTICS.

In the words of the Western Australian Conference report, "While able to report a substantial numerical increase, we do not consider that numbers alone should be regarded as the index of our growth, because if spiritual life be lacking in our members, mere weight of numbers can have no influence beyond their numerical value."

In passing, we are pleased to place on record the promptitude of church secretaries throughout the State in returning statements, and the careful manner in which same were completed. There are now 14 churches in association (excluding those of Zeehan and Queenstown, which we regret to say have long since ceased to meet, and the revival of which by means of occasional evangelistic aid will, we hope, receive early attention), with a total membership of 474, being an increase of 71 members during the year. The gains have been 60 by faith and obedience, 5 by letter, 2 from other religious bodies and 26 restored. The losses have been:—By letter, 10; by death, 3; other causes, 9. Total membership of churches on 28th Feb., 1905, 474. In addition to this number there

are 27 "isolated" brethren throughout the State, who, it is known, are not included on any church roll. Communication has been opened up with several of such, and it is hoped in this way at least to keep them in touch with and interested in the work of Home Missions. There are 5 Sunday Schools with 238 scholars and 21 teachers. In regard to the West Coast churches, an early conference between the trustees of the late Bro. Davis' estate and the Committee as to what can be done is in contemplation.

TOUR OF COUNTRY CHURCHES.

The first business of the 1904-5 Committee was to awaken the churches throughout the Island to a sense of the need of having at least one Home Missionary in the field. F. Collins kindly offered to make a complete tour, under the Committee's auspices, of the Country churches, to see *inter alia* what definite amount could be raised annually to support the Home Missionary. The Hobart church most generously allowed Bro. Collins to proceed on the tour. Our brother made three distinct visits, and furnished an exhaustive report of his work, which was most satisfactory. By no means the least benefit of the tour was the bringing of all the churches into closer touch with the Committee, which is very desirable. Bro. Collins will give further verbal report upon his tour later in the day. While the country churches were being visited, communication was opened up with a brother in Melbourne, with a view to engaging him as Home Missionary. The brother was, however, unable to come, and ultimately, under the recommendation of F. Collins, Charles R. Howard, then of New Zealand, was written to and asked to take up the work. On the 3rd August, 1904, Bro. Howard wired his acceptance of a six months' engagement with the Committee at a remuneration of £91 per annum and all travelling expenses. Our brother arrived in Hobart about 31st August, 1904, and on the 9th September of the same year proceeded to Bream Creek, where he spent about four weeks. From there he went to the Peninsula, thence to Esperance, where he assisted Bro. Way in a special mission. After leaving Esperance, Bro. Howard spent a month in Launceston, and after that proceeded to the Sulphur Creek and Penguin districts, where he has been laboring ever since with undoubted success. From the commence-

ment of Bro. Howard's labors, to the end of the current Conference year (February 28), he has had the joy of seeing more than 20 confess Jesus as their Saviour and express their desire to follow him. By this and other means our brother has performed a splendid work for the cause of Christ in Tasmania. It is now our painful duty to report our Bro. Howard's resignation as from the 1st May, 1905, and the first business of the incoming Committee will be to appoint his successor. Bro. Howard will also furnish a verbal report later.

FINANCE.

We are glad to say that we are free from all debt, but this is not saying much, when we remember that we are only supporting one man, whereas it was hoped that by this date at least two would be engaged. Furthermore, our motto for the year, "150 souls for Christ and £100 for Home Missions," has not been realised. Only less than half of the amount set has been contributed. As will be seen from the balance sheet, our total receipts from all sources were £44/7/-, and disbursements £81/1/2, leaving a balance of £38/11/5 in the bank. We commenced the year with £75/5/7 in hand, so it will be observed that we have expended more than this amount during the year; and our credit balance being now only £38/11/5, at the same rate of receipts and expenditure as heretofore, our balance at the end of next year will be practically nil. The churches are urged to see if a definite amount cannot be agreed upon, and that amount at least reached, if not added to, yearly.

One means suggested of raising funds was by "mite boxes." This suggestion was acted upon and 60 boxes distributed, but only 6 have so far been received. More attention will be given to these in the incoming year.

Owing to the engagement of a Home Missionary, the desire to keep isolated members in touch, and the distribution of mite boxes, etc., the correspondence has been excessive—just on 250 letters, etc., having been written. This is the chief item in the Secretary's petty expenses, to meet which a special fund will shortly be created.

THANKS.

We have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the aid we have received from the

brethren and sisters throughout the State who have so kindly extended hospitality to representatives of the Conference, also to the Hobart church for the use of their building and other ways in which they have assisted.

In conclusion, we desire to say that in all matters under our consideration we have tried by God's help to do all for his glory, and it remains for us to express the hope that in the deliberations of our present Conference the same object will be before us.

TOM. G. PRIOR, President.
R. C. TOLE, Vice-president.
A. W. ADAMS, Treasurer.

GEORGE SPAULDING } Members of
S. SMITH } the
W. CLIFFORD } Committee.

April 1, 1905. THOS. W. SMITH, Sec.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

I think you will agree with me that the balance sheet reveals an unsatisfactory state of affairs. As in a commercial or any other mundane venture, particular attention has to be paid to the financial aspect, and no amount of sentiment can smother up, or do away with this question. It will be seen by the balance sheet that the country churches, on whom roughly speaking the sum of £200 has been spent during the last twelve months (I am including, in this, the amount paid out of Bro. Davis' Fund), have contributed the sum of £36/19/4, plus a few small mite box donations. I have before me the statistics of the country churches, and they represent a total membership of 295. For the sake of argument let us reduce these figures to 200, and we find the contribution per head from the country churches is only about 3/8 per member. The Davis Fund cannot last indefinitely, and although it is a very useful adjunct to our work at the present time, yet we should endeavor to build a substantial foundation quite apart from its help. It has been, I venture to say, the nucleus of this H.M. work, and we should conserve it all we can. I would therefore urge that one of the chief works of the Conference be to put this matter of finance on a definite footing, and endeavor to arrive at the amount which each country church will contribute during the present financial year. If receipts are not trebled forthwith our small balance at the Savings Bank will slowly disappear, and our attempt at H.M. work will be futile. This is the sombre side of the picture. I feel certain that there is a sunny side, and that the Conference will face the difficulty and elucidate some means by which our finances may be put on a satisfactory basis. The receipts from mite boxes are of such an uncertain character that they may scarcely be considered seriously as means of raising revenue, and I would again suggest that the only satisfactory way is for the churches to bind themselves to give a definite annual payment, which would not only meet current outlay, but would build up a reserve fund to meet any extra expenditure that might arise. I wish you God speed in your noble work, and trust by his blessing good may result from your deliberations.

A. W. ADAMS.

ASSOCIATED CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN TASMANIA, 1904-5.

BALANCE SHEET

(Year ended March 31st, 1905).

RECEIPTS.

| | | | |
|--|-----|------|----|
| Balance in Savings Bank on April 1, 1904.. | £75 | 5 | 7 |
| Interest on Bank Account .. | .. | 2 | 0 |
| Church Contributions— | | | |
| Impression Bay .. | £13 | 0 | 0 |
| Bream Creek .. | .. | 11 | 0 |
| Esperance (Dover) .. | .. | 5 | 15 |
| Launceston .. | .. | 4 | 6 |
| Sulphur Creek .. | .. | 2 | 0 |
| Zeehan .. | .. | 0 | 17 |
| | | 36 | 19 |
| Mite Boxes and sundry Donations .. | .. | 5 | 7 |
| | | £119 | 12 |
| April 1, 1905—By Balance forward .. | .. | 38 | 11 |

EXPENDITURE.

| | | | | |
|---|----|------|----|---|
| Bank Book .. | .. | £0 | 0 | 6 |
| Salary of Home Missionary (C.R. Howard), 7 months to 31/3/05, at £91 per annum .. | .. | 53 | 1 | 8 |
| Travelling Expenses of H.M. (including expenses to Hobart from New Zealand) .. | .. | 9 | 10 | 6 |
| Legal Expenses .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Petty Expenses of Secretary .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Tour of Country Churches by F. Collins, half salary 6 weeks, and all expenses .. | .. | 16 | 2 | 6 |
| Balance in Savings Bank .. | .. | 38 | 11 | 5 |
| | | £119 | 12 | 7 |

We certify to the correctness of above account. J. ADAMS.
Vouchers produced and examined and found correct. THOS. W. SMITH.

1/4/05. A. W. ADAMS, Hon. Treas.

BALANCE SHEET—PETTY EXPENSES

(Year ended March 31st, 1905).

| | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|-------|
| To Postage, Wires and Freights .. | .. | £1 | 14 | 8 |
| Stationery and supplies (including programmes) .. | .. | 0 | 19 | 8 |
| Commission and Poundage, Money Orders, etc. .. | .. | 0 | 8 | 3 |
| Repayments of Advances, etc., to Sec., etc. .. | .. | 0 | 13 | 8 |
| Other Disbursements (including cost of "On the Rock" for Bren. Way and Howard) .. | .. | 1 | 10 | 3 |
| Balance in hand .. | .. | 0 | 2 | 2 1/2 |
| | | £5 | 8 | 8 1/2 |
| By Advances from Sec. prior to funds being received .. | .. | £0 | 11 | 2 |
| Church Contributions (direct to fund) .. | .. | 1 | 13 | 9 |
| Advances from Treas. (from Gen. Conf. Fund) .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Other receipts (including col. from H.M. meeting held 8/9/04) .. | .. | 1 | 18 | 9 1/2 |
| | | £5 | 8 | 8 1/2 |
| By Balance forward on 1/4/05 .. | .. | 0 | 2 | 2 1/2 |

Certified correct,

THOS. W. SMITH. F. COLLINS, Evangelist.

THE BUSINESS SESSIONS.

The Twelfth Annual Conference of the churches of Christ, Tasmania, was held at Hobart during the Easter holidays, and proved most successful, both as regards the attendances at the various meetings, and the practical work accomplished. Fine weather prevailed, and this was an important factor in the success of the gathering.

On Friday, the 21st April, at 9.30 a.m., proceedings were commenced with a devotional service led by J. Orr. The service was well attended, and was the forerunner of other inspiring and enthusiastic meetings.

At 10.15 the chair was taken by the President of the Conference (T. G. Prior), and the real work of the session entered upon.

The President welcomed the visitors, and called over the roll of delegates, the following answering to their names:—

BREAM CREEK—Wm. Clifford.

GEEVESTON—Harwood, — Sharp, G. Kyme

HOBART—F. Collins, W. R. C. Jarvis, J. Lee, J. Orr, H. C. Rodd.

IMPRESSION BAY—J. Methven, G. Spaulding.

LAUNCESTON—P. Orr. — Treewick.

PORT ESPERANCE—W. J. Way, W. Rickards.

SULPHUR CREEK—J. Dennis.

The majority of the delegates briefly responded and conveyed to the Conference greetings from their respective churches.

Letters of greeting were also read from the following:—

Secretary of churches at Mole Creek, Nook, Sulphur Creek, West Hobart, New Ground, Latrobe; Secretaries of Conference Committees of N.Z. (Middle District), Queensland, New South Wales; Secretary of Victorian F.M. Committee (also urging formation of a F.M. Committee for Tasmania), and W. J. Philipps, Burnie. Bro. Prior apologised for the absence, on account of illness, of the Vice-president, Bro. Tole, Launceston, and S. Smith, Bream Creek.

The President then delivered his address. In it he referred to the good work carried out during the past twelve months. The statistics to hand showed a considerable increase (at the rate of 25 per cent.) in the membership of the churches, and with the systematic effort now to be put forth, the year just entered upon would, he felt confident, be still more successful. Special reference was made to the church which had recently been established at Geeveston by Bren. Way and Kyme. About 4 weeks ago the brethren mentioned commenced a mission at Geeveston, and had the joy of hearing 40 make the good confession. Of this number 27 had been baptised, and others were to follow. Bro. Prior congratulated John Orr on his having been chosen as Rhode's scholar for Tasmania for 1905, and felt sure that if he ever made Tasmania his home again he would use his ability in assisting the churches of Christ in every possible way. Regret was expressed at the approaching departure of T. W. Smith (the Secretary of the Conference) for Sydney, and a tribute was paid him as to the manner in which he carried out the duties devolving upon him in connection with church work.

The President concluded a most interesting address by vigorously calling upon every one to do his or her best in the forthcoming year, and trusted that the Conference would result in work being done to the honor and glory of God.

The Conference Committee's and Treasurer's reports were read, and matters arising out of same left over for discussion later in the session.

W. J. Way (evangelist engaged by late Bro. Davis' trustees) gave a resume of his work during the past twelve months, in the Port Esperance district. 322 meetings had been held, and 1114 visits made, necessitating tramping some thousands of miles. Since

STATISTICAL REGISTER, YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY, 1905.

| CHURCH. | Total Membership on Feb. 28, 1904. | ADDITIONS. | | | | LOSSES. | | | Total (nett) Membership, March 1, 1905. | S. SCHOOL. | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---|-----------|---------|--------|---------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Faith and Obedience. | Letter. | Bapt's & Believers from Other Religious Bodies. | Restored. | Letter. | Death. | Other Causes. | | Scholars, March 1, 1905. | Teachers, March 1, 1905. |
| Beaconsfield .. | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Bream Creek .. | 52 | 10 | | | 1 | | | | 63 | | |
| Hobart .. | 153 | 11 | 2 | | 1 | 4 | 1 | | 162 | 43 | 3 |
| Hobart West .. | 9 | | | | | | | | 9 | 108 | 9 |
| Beulah .. | 5 | | | | | | | | 5 | | |
| Impression Bay .. | 65 | 10 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 74 | 45 | 4 |
| Latrobe .. | 3 | | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| Launceston .. | 41 | 4 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 44 | 30 | 3 |
| New Ground .. | 18 | | | | | | | | 18 | | |
| Nook .. | 13 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 4 | 8 | | |
| Port Esperance .. | 10 | 19 | | 2 | 24 | 1 | | 4 | 50 | 12 | 2 |
| St. Helen's .. | 3 | | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| Sulphur Creek .. | 17 | 6 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 21 | | |
| Mole Creek .. | 12 | | | | | | | | 12 | | |
| Totals .. | 403 | 60 | 5 | 2 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 474 | 238 | 21 |
| Isolated .. | | | | | | | | | 27 | | |
| Grand Totals .. | 403 | 60 | 5 | 2 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 501 | 238 | 21 |

SUMMARY.—Membership on Feb. 28, 1904, 403. Additions during year, 93. Losses during year, 22. Nett additions, 71. Membership on Feb. 28, 1905, 501. Nett increase, 98.

N.B.—A number of brethren put down as "isolated" were shown in returns last year of churches since ceased to meet.

Bro. Way commenced his labors in April, 1904, until the 28th February, 1905, 19 have been added to the church at Port Esperance by faith and obedience, 2 baptised believers have been received from other religious bodies, and 24 restored, the membership now being 50.

C. R. Howard (Home Missionary) followed, and touched briefly upon his work in the Bream Creek, Impression Bay, Sulphur Creek and Penguin districts, and at Launceston. Bro. Howard commenced his labors in this State on 9th September last, and has been gladdened at hearing more than twenty confess their Saviour. Bro. Howard has performed splendid work for the cause of Christ in Tasmania, and it is a matter for regret that he has seen fit to send in his resignation as from May 1st, 1905.

F. Collins (evangelist, Hobart), who during the year visited the country churches throughout Tasmania (his services having been kindly loaned by the Hobart church), furnished a verbal report thereon, and supplied information as to the condition in which he found them.

At 1 o'clock an adjournment was made for dinner, which was spread in the Coronation Hall, close to the chapel.

At 2.30 p.m. Bro. Kyme conducted a brief song service, preparatory to proceeding with business.

At 3 o'clock the President called upon G. Kyme to give an account of the work at Geeveston, and this he did briefly.

The draft constitution of the Conference of churches of Christ, Tasmania, was then read by the Secretary, and discussed clause by clause.

After the constitution had been finally disposed of the election of officers took place, and resulted as follows:—President, T. G.

Prior; Vice-President, P. Orr; Secretary, T. W. Smith (provisionally); Treasurer, A. W. Adams. These officers, together with J. Methven, Wm. Clifford, and Sydney Smith, to act as Executive Committee.

It was decided to hold next Conference at Launceston—Easter, 1906.

The financial question was then considered, and in accordance with a suggestion contained in the Treasurer's report, an endeavor was made to arrive at the amount which each country church could contribute to the Home Mission fund during the present financial year. Promises were made by the delegates present of the amounts their respective churches would try and contribute.

At 8 p.m. a Home Mission rally was held, and was a great success, the chapel being crowded. Bro. Prior was chairman, and spirited missionary addresses were delivered by W. J. Way, C. R. Howard and F. Collins. Other items on the programme were a solo, "O Divine Redeemer," sung by Miss May Brown; recitation, Miss A. M. Parker; solo, Bro. Kyme; and a quartette. During the evening the chairman presented (on behalf of the brethren assembled in Hobart) Bro. Smith with an order on the Austral Publishing Company for books which he may require in order to better equip himself for work in the Master's service.

The Conference assembled for business again at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. After a short devotional meeting, Bro. Howard gave his reasons for resigning his position as Home Missionary, and thanked the brethren for the kindness he had received on every hand since he first came amongst them.

The matter of the proposed Federal Conference was next discussed, and it was resolved that Tasmania be represented at such

Conference, and delegates were appointed.

J. Adams, junr., was appointed to write the Conference Essay for next year.

Several matters of importance respecting the welfare of the churches of Christ in Tasmania were disposed of, and the business session closed with votes of thanks to those who generously came forward and provided quarters for the visiting delegates; to the sisters who so efficiently catered for all visitors during Conference, and to the President.

On Saturday afternoon, at the invitation of the President, the delegates were taken to Brown's River by steamer. An enjoyable time was spent, and the party returned in time to attend a united temperance meeting, given in conjunction with the Independent Order of Good Templars, also in Conference at Hobart.

Splendid meetings were the order of the day on Sunday. In the morning the church was exhorted by Bren. Clifford and Spaulding; in the afternoon Bro. Way delivered the Conference Sermon, his subject being "The Authority of Christ." This subject was handled by Bro. Way in a masterly manner. At night the chapel was crowded. Bro. Howard was the preacher, and kept the attention of the audience riveted by an excellent address on "The Cleansing of Naaman."

On Monday the Conference picnic was held at the Waterworks. A large number of members and friends attended, and a most enjoyable day was spent.

TASMANIAN CONFERENCE JOTTINGS.

The blessing of God rested upon the twelfth Annual Conference of the churches of Christ in Tasmania.

Everyone appeared to work with but one object in view, namely, the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

A glorious time was spent with representatives from churches in various parts of the State; some of them hardy pioneers in the work, and all faithful soldiers of the cross.

T. G. Prior was the right man in the right place as President, and he threw himself heart and soul into the work.

F. Collins also performed sterling work in connection with the gathering, and is worthy of the highest praise.

It was invigorating to see two sturdy delegates present from the newly formed church at Geeveston.

G. Kyme was appointed leader of singing during Conference. Without doubt this brother is a lover of song, and seems happiest when singing songs of Zion.

John Orr's address at the devotional service on Friday morning was telling and to the point. He has it in him to become a most able preacher for Christ. God grant he may.

It was a grand sight to see the array of men on the platform on Friday and Sunday nights.

The action of the Home Missionary Committee in placing a man on the North-west

Coast has roused the denominations there to activity.

The addresses delivered by W. J. Way were greatly appreciated. His Conference Sermon on "The Authority of Christ" was a splendid effort, and he commanded the attention of his audience throughout.

It is a matter for regret that C. R. Howard, Home Missionary, has seen fit to give up evangelistic work altogether. He is a conscientious worker, a fluent and acceptable speaker, and has had splendid results during the time he has been in the field.

A splendid temperance meeting was held in the chapel on Saturday night, April 22nd. The I.O.G.T., who were in Conference in Hobart, supplied the programme. A vigorous address was given by W. J. Way.

It was interesting, and at times amusing, to hear W. J. Way's reminiscences of his work in the Port Esperance district. He affirms that he knows almost every bog-hole, swamp and log on the roads and tracks there, and that he has been on very intimate terms with them!

The sisters fully deserved, and received, great praise for the splendid way in which they catered for those attending the Conference, and much of the success achieved is due to their efforts.

The picnic on Easter Monday was held at the Waterworks, about two miles from Hobart. The day was gloriously fine, and a most enjoyable time was spent by both old and young.

to take those qualities and place them at the service of the church. In the third place he would say that it was not merely the duty of Endeavorers to render service to the church, but it was their privilege. Duty was a great word, but it was all the better when duty was merged into and became a privilege. There was no higher privilege in all the world than to serve the church and its great Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Christian Endeavor brought the meeting to an end. benediction

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Extracts from the C. E. Union Annual Report.

The past year has been marked by substantial progress.

The increase of membership has been of a very satisfactory nature.

At the last Conference the societies affiliated with the Union numbered 24 Young People's and 5 Juniors, with a total membership of 1177; to-day we have 33 Young People's and 7 Juniors, the membership totalling 1572, being an increase of 11 societies and 395 members.

During the year we have had testimony of the good work accomplished by the junior societies. We would commend these societies to the representatives of the various churches, and solicit their earnest assistance to instil in the young people of the church a desire to fit themselves for service.

The efforts of the Endeavor Societies, while embracing many fields of service, are not spread over too wide an area for successful work. The great branches of Christian work that appeal most to members of this movement are the alleviation of distress, the ministering to the physical and spiritual necessities of the people, the cultivation of piety in its members and the development of all latent powers of service.

We will here give a brief account of the work accomplished. Some 2500 visits have been made to those in distress, and to old and infirm members of the church. Parcels of groceries to the value of £25 have been distributed, also numerous articles of clothing. In urgent cases small sums of money have been given to alleviate immediate want. Through the distribution of literature and tracts, purchased at their own expense, and house to house visitation, the gospel meetings have benefited by increased attendances. Numerous visits have been made to the Hospitals, Benevolent Asylums, and Women's Night Shelter.

The sick of the church have also been attended to, and offerings made of delicacies, fruit and flowers. Through the efforts of one society a number of young people are now active church workers, who, previous to being connected with a C.E. Society, idled away their evenings.

Another society employed 50 days in washing and scrubbing for the sick and helpless, also purchased a perambulator for a crippled girl.

During the year £65 was collected and distributed amongst Home and Foreign Missions and general church work.

In addition to this four societies contribute

The Endeavor Demonstration

Held in connection with the Victorian Conference.

On Monday night, April 24th, the Christian Endeavor Union held a public meeting in the Masonic Hall. The ground floor of the building was crowded with Endeavorers, the balcony having been set apart for visitors. The proceedings commenced with a song service conducted by T. J. Cook, in the course of which solos were sung by Miss Lena Kemp, Miss Campbell and Miss Gena Allen. At the conclusion of the song service J. Johnston, the President, took the chair and called upon the audience to sing "All hail the power of Jesus' Name," after which A. B. Maston led the meeting in prayer. W. A. Kemp gave the Scripture reading, and after the singing of six choruses, H. G. Peacock read the Secretary's report, which showed that membership at the present time was 1572, an increase of 395 during the year. The report showed that a great amount of useful work had been done by the various societies. The President made some introductory remarks in which he said some things of special interest to Endeavorers, and thanking A. B. Maston and A. R. Main for the services they had rendered the Union in the pages of the CHRISTIAN. In regard to the growth of the movement he wished it to be understood that it was not owing so much to anything that he had done as to splendid work performed by H. G. Harward and H. G. Peacock.

ADDRESS BY J. W. BAKER.

J. W. Baker said that the topic given to him was "The Duty of the Church to the Christian Endeavor Society." He did not see how anyone could have any possible objection to the Endeavor movement after having heard the splendid report given by the Secretary of the work done. There were some who objected that the Endeavor Society was not apostolic. He would say that if the movement were judged by its works it would be found to be in the truest sense apostolic. There were a number of societies in connection with the church, but he was sure that none of them gave the same promise and promoted the same ends as the

Endeavor Society did. The Endeavor Society had three points of excellence. First, it encouraged aggressive Christianity in the development of the missionary spirit. Second, it promoted and fostered an active benevolence in its members. In the third place, it paid special attention to the development of spiritual life. For these reasons the Endeavor movement had special claims upon the attention of the church, and should receive its very best support. He would urge upon the churches to throw away all prejudice and assist in the good work being done by the society.

The roll was then called, and the various Societies responded.

ADDRESS BY P. A. DICKSON.

P. A. Dickson said the subject that had been given to him was "The Duty of the Christian Endeavor Society to the Church." He thought that in the first place he would say something in regard to the church. The church was a great and glorious institution—an assembly called out of God for the grandest of all purposes. Its great aim was the uplifting of man, to take the crude material and make it beautiful. The great work of the church was to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to send forth the light of him who was the Light of the world. The church, therefore, was the greatest organisation upon the earth. What, then, was the duty of the Endeavor Society to the church? The church had claims upon it. What were these? First of all, he would say it claimed the loyalty of all Endeavorers to the church. Loyalty to the church of Jesus Christ was something that should be manifested by all believers, and Endeavorers should be to the front in this respect. Endeavorers should be loyal in their service to the church, in attendance at its meetings and in observance of its institutions. They should also be loyal in their support of the gospel proclamation. In the second place, Endeavorers should supply life and enthusiasm to the church. In the youth of our church these things are to be found, and it was the duty of the societies

£21 yearly for the support of boys in India.

The work of Bren. Harward and Pittman has been watched with great interest by every society in the Union, and a short time ago we had the pleasure of presenting Bro. Harward with a flag for the new tent, which was considered a most acceptable gift.

The election of officers held in October resulted in the following being elected:— Pres., J. Johnston; Supt., H. G. Peacock; Vice-pres., Mrs. G. P. Pittman, A. Meldrum, W. A. Kemp; Sec., Miss Walker; Treas., Miss Groom; Musical Conductor, T. J. Cook.

Adjournment was then made for lunch provided by sisters of Brisbane church.

The Afternoon Session was opened by singing, and prayer by J. Swan.

J. Colbourne's essay on "The Work of the Holy Spirit in Conversion" was listened to with marked attention.

The Treasurer's Financial Statement was read, and showed a more satisfactory state than for years past.

The matters arising out of the correspondence, especially with reference to the offers of Bren. T. B. Fischer of Lismore, Pond of Ipswich, now of Balmain-st., Richmond, and Carter of Roma to conduct a tent mission, and the appeal for a mission from Mackay and help from Gympie, etc., were handed over to the incoming Committee to deal with.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of J. Colbourne, Pres.; W. Jones and Geo. Colvin, Vice-presidents; W. Wallace, Treasurer; and C. M. F. Fischer, Secretary. On the motion of Bro. Colbourne, seconded by W. Berlin, each church is to be asked to appoint one of their number to represent them on the Committee.

Bro. Colbourne's essay then came on for comment, and was spoken to by Bren. Marriage, Boyle, Jones, Wallace, Fisher, Swan and Colvin.

Bren. Hamper and Greene were present at Conference from Lismore, and conveyed greetings from that church to us, and took part in our deliberations.

Tea was provided by the sisters, and partaken of by a good number. At 8 p.m. the President elect took the chair and presided over the public meeting.

Bro. Kickbusch, of Marburg, spoke on "The Man for whom Christ Died." Bro. Greene, of Lismore, spoke on "Individual and Collective Effort." C. M. F. Fischer took a retrospect and prospect. G. Colvin also spoke words of encouragement.

CARL M. F. FISCHER.

Queensland Conference

1905.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

It does seem a great pity that we, with such a name and claim and so glorious a plea, cannot arouse ourselves to greater effort and self-sacrifice. I am not unconscious of the many and great obstacles that impede our progress, yet we cannot flatter ourselves that we have done what we could. Still, it is matter for no small gratification that, working as we do, we should even be able to hold our own. Much praise is due in some churches to the few brethren who are using their limited talents and opportunities to keep the gospel banner afloat in their various communities. It is with regret that I must note that the contemplated forward move was not made during the year that was anticipated, owing chiefly to the lack of interest evinced, even by those churches who were the likeliest to benefit by it. You remember that most of us looked to the tent mission as the means of starting us in our forward movement. The cause of disappointment rests with the churches, who in the great majority of cases took not sufficient notice of the appeal and recommendation of the Conference to establish a fund to permanently carry on the tent mission. Only five or six churches informed me that they intended to co-operate by raising funds in this way. Under such circumstances it is no matter for surprise that your Executive did not feel justified in engaging a State tent evangelist.

On the other hand it is encouraging to see that some realise that in our day, when almost everything must be supported with money to succeed, we also need money to make a successful start, and therefore continue to send their gifts.

From the reports to hand it appears that Brisbane shows numerical as well as other progress, having a nett increase of 20, while Charters Towers writes hopefully and shows a gain of 7, Marburg holding the fort, and shows a gain of 4, Tannymorel 1, Rosevale 2. Bundamba regained 4 and conducts a school. Toowoomba, we have reason to think, looks more hopefully into the future than for many years past. Working on without evangelistic help, they nevertheless added 17—a nett gain of 15. Others show losses. Gympie shows the greatest loss, 22. The Kanaka Mission comes second, with a loss of 17, which is quite a serious loss. Vernor loses 7; smaller losses at other churches. At this rate it will be a long time before we conquer Queensland for Christ.

CARL M. F. FISCHER, Sec.

THE BUSINESS SESSIONS.

The 22nd Conference of Associated Churches assembled at Ann-street chapel, Brisbane. At 10 o'clock our President, usually punctual, did not appear. Bro. Swan brought us tidings that he had fallen a victim to the prevailing epidemic—dengue, and was laid up at his place. Much regret was expressed for Bro. Thompson.

J. Colbourne led the devotional meeting.

George Colvin, as senior Vice-president, presided over the Conference.

The roll call did not reveal much improvement in the matter of attendance.

J. Swan was made Press Correspondent for the Conference.

Minutes were confirmed as read.

Letters of greeting were read from the Tasmanian, New South Wales and Victorian Conference Executives.

The Secretary mentioned that letters of greeting had been sent to the Australian Conferences sitting that day.

A considerable amount of correspondence was read from churches not otherwise represented.

The Secretary's report was read and received, and some informal discussion ensued.

Auckland (N.Z.) Conference

1905

The twenty-second Annual Conference of the churches of Christ in the province of Auckland, N.Z., is past, and the brethren who attended it have their loins girt for work in the various ways that the Conference devised. The entire proceedings were of the cheeriest and happiest; all seemed of one mind to try to make the coming year more successful than the last; and the love and unity that prevailed will remain a pleasant memory.

The pre-arrangements were so excellent that much time was saved and good order maintained. The following extract gives the reason for the plan adopted:—"PRINTING REPORTS.—We think the brethren generally will see the advantage of printing all reports to be presented to Conference. It will enable those who are unable to attend to see

how the work is going on, and will give those who are coming an idea of the business that is to be presented."

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

This was to have been held in the public park, but inclement weather compelled an adjournment to the meeting house. Geo. Foulds, M.H.R., presided, and C. H. Garland (Methodist), William Richardson (Editor of the *Free Press*), N. A. Davis, and Bren. Watt, Johnstone and Scott, spoke. The *Morning Herald* gave a good report of the speeches. The prohibitionists are expecting a very heavy vote for No License at the coming elections, and hope to gain several electorates. The good results where No License obtains furnish powerful reasons for further extension.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference was opened on Friday at 9 a.m. with prayer and praise for half-an-hour, and then the business was dealt with until 5.30 p.m. The attendance was much larger than on the previous year. There were 37 country and visiting brethren present, among whom were Dr. and Mrs. Kingsbury with their two daughters, whose presence gave great pleasure, for the name of Kingsbury is a household word with the brethren of these Colonies. With them were Sister Wardell and Bro. and Sister Udell, of St. Louis, U.S.A. The delegates from the country churches were F. Phillips from Dome Valley, Bro. Yates from Te Arai, W. Vickery from Wellsford, Bro. Shepherd from Port Albert, Bro. Turner from Hoteo North, and R. Laing from Gloriot.

Greetings were sent by G. Kitching from Karangahake, by Bro. Bull from Wellington, and from the Southern Conference. Greetings were also sent to the Southern Conferences. Bro. Bryden in well chosen terms welcomed the delegates.

THE BUSINESS SESSION.

The President, F. Evans, then addressed the assembled brethren, thanking them for the honor conferred, and asked for their co-operation with his efforts. He spoke of the pleasure of their annual re-unions, and of the increased demands caused by the present progress. That the Conference was called to do, and to refrain from doing, to exercise grace and wisdom in not interfering with the local government of the churches, and do all we could to preach the gospel to every creature. The call to-day is to do that which will promote the preaching of the gospel for the salvation of men. In the councils of a nation a great need unites all parties to meet it, so we having this one thing, and full of the missionary spirit, let us be moved by it in all we do or say.

There were anxious times in the past year, but faith is a power; it was with the two spies out of the twelve Moses sent to view the land. There are giants, say some, but these said, "Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it." As an inspiration let us remember that we are co-workers with God. See the year in nature—spring with its gentle rain, summer with its genial warmth, autumn with its harvest fruits, winter the time of rest—all moving as God directs. Man is powerless in these works, but God has given him a share in a work that is nobler and greater—a work not for a season, but what will abide for ever and ever.

Brethren, the correspondence will be read, but I ask you to take the printed reports as read. This was done.

The Committee reports that Bro. Watt was engaged to labor in this district for another year. Most of his time has been spent with the church at Ponsonby-road, one visit being made to the church at Pakakura Valley. In December he went over to Sydney, at the request of the Enmore church, to help them in their special services at the opening of their new building. In January, 1905, he was sent, at the request of the church at Pabiatua, to preach for them during a two-weeks' mission, the result being

14 decisions for Christ. From there he went to Dunedin, to attend a conference arranged with the Baptists to discuss questions of union. The report of that conference will be laid before you later on. Bro. Watt has also given his attention to the Bible Class, the Training Class, and the Literary Society; and has also devoted a portion of his time to the cause of Temperance, being Vice-president of the Prohibition League. We wish to place on record our appreciation of Bro. Watt's labors during the past year.

Bro. Hadfield was engaged for twelve months to labor in the Auckland district. He labored with the church at Mt. Roskill until December, 1904, with the exception of four Sundays, which were spent with the churches at Papakura Valley, Helensville, Wellsford, and Dome Valley. Since that date he has been laboring with the churches in the Albertland district. While at Mt. Roskill he labored with the brethren in the various auxiliaries of the church very acceptably, in the Sunday School for a time as Superintendent, and in the Training Class as president. When our last report was presented the cause at Mt. Roskill was in its infancy. It is with a deep sense of gratitude to our Heavenly Father that we can now report that it has steadily grown during the year, twelve having been won for Christ.

We believe this cause has great possibilities, situated as it is in the centre of a growing district. Reports to hand from Albertland show that the district is being aroused. We believe that good work is being done in that locality, and the results to date justify the effort that has been made. We have found Bro. Hadfield an earnest and able proclaimer of the gospel, and desire to express our appreciation of his labors.

Bro. Hadfield's labors in the North resulted in nine additions to the church in Dome Valley, and in an increased interest in the other districts visited, so that the brethren there greatly desire that he should revisit them in the next summer.

During the year several missions have been held, one in June, when two American brethren held a week's mission in the Ponsonby-rd. meeting house. Bro. Hamilton preached with such earnestness and force that the building was filled each evening in the week, and on the last Sunday evening was taxed to its utmost capacity. His addresses on the principles of the church must have given every brother and sister a fuller conception of our glorious position than they ever had before. As a result of the special effort ten were led to confess the Christ.

The difficulty of getting brethren able and willing to go out emphasises the need of securing the services of another evangelist, to be employed among the country churches. There are many districts, such as Opitiki, Rotorua, Hamilton, Waihi, where there are grand openings for successful work. And the question is urged upon us: Is it not possible for us to support another preacher just now for the whole year, we might at least manage it for the summer season.

There are 182 brethren who are isolated. To these a letter has been sent every month—a work of faith and labor of love that falls heavily on those who do it. From the

replies, those who receive these letters are very grateful.

During the year we have lost by death the services of faithful brethren, whose memory is still cherished—Wm. Vickery, Jesse Todd, Jas. Marson, S. Stokes and Bro. Ward.

STATISTICS.

MEMBERSHIP.—The statistical register has been prepared, showing a very satisfactory increase, which gives great cause for thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the many precious souls who have been won over to fight under the banner of King Jesus. The total membership of churches reporting last year amounted to 690; this year the number stands at 749, showing a nett increase of 59. 5 churches report an increase, viz., Auckland 58, Warkworth 5, Pukekohe 1, Omaumau 1, and Helensville 3.

FINANCE.—This year a forward step was made in employing 2 evangelists for the whole year. We cannot expect to move forward without at first feeling the burden of it, but we are happy to appear before you with evidences of the faithfulness of our gracious Lord. At times we were without money; but with strong faith and trust in God we appealed to the brethren, and they came to our aid. Brethren will please notice that the financial statement to be presented is only for 11 months, and although there is a deficit, yet the amount contributed is £73 in advance of the amount contributed for the preceding year. The work that we are co-operating to carry out cannot be done without money, and as our principles keep us from preaching any other than a free gospel, it will be necessary for each one to realise his or her responsibility as in the sight of God.

Pledges from churches and members were then given to aid the work of the coming year to the amount of £382/5/6. This is £114/5/6 more than last year, and covers the salaries of the two evangelists and the actual deficit on the full time of last year.

In his report Bro. Watt says:—"Firstly, the entire harmony that has prevailed, the utter absence of any element of discord, is matter for sincere gratification. Secondly, the intelligent interest that has been so widely shared by almost the whole of the members, in the work we have had committed to our charge, is well calculated to fill those who have the responsibility for the conduct of the work with a great joy, and to inspire them with the utmost confidence in the future of the cause in Auckland. The brethren and sisters have risen to a fair realisation of their individual share in the matter of soul-winning. And when they, yielding to the constraining influence of the Holy Spirit, attain to a full realisation of the all-important fact that they are to be 'workers together with God,' then shall their power for service mightily increase, and the numbers won for Christ shall be reckoned not by scores but by hundreds!"

Bro. Hadfield also testified:—"In conclusion, I wish to thank the Mt. Roskill brethren for their hearty and continued kindness and support, especially mentioning the choir and their leader, who have added so much attractiveness to the gospel meetings. Of my north-country brethren I must say

that nowhere in New Zealand have I received greater kindness than in their midst; they have rendered far easier the long separation from my own home."

Others who have evangelised in town and in the country, rendering good advice, were specially thanked in the report. These are Bros. Bagnall, Allan, R. Laing, Davies, Carr, King, Edwards, Evans, Marment, Harrison, Cooper, Waterhouse, Lye, Bryden, Woods, Petherick and Fischer (from Adelaide). The brethren in the northern portion of the Auckland district gratefully recognise the preaching labors of Bren. Hadfield, Grimmer, Latimer, W. Vickery and R. Laing.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMING YEAR.

That Bren. Watt and Hadfield be re-engaged for another year.

That Bro. Hadfield labor in the Albertland district for four months in the summer season, as last year.

That a third evangelist be engaged as soon as possible.

That, in the event of the engagement of a third evangelist, the labors of one be outside Auckland city. This will give the Executive a free hand as to choice of man and place.

It was resolved that the name "Evangelist Committee" be changed to "Auckland Conference Executive Committee."

That all churches in the Association be invited to devote the collections on one Sunday for Home Mission work.

That we approve of the proposal from the Middle District of N.Z. to hold a united Conference for the whole of New Zealand, and that the selection of delegates and other arrangements be left to the Executive—F. Davies, J. L. Scott, H. N. Bagnall, F. Evans, J. Laing, J. Edwards, A. M. Bryden, J. B. Allen, E. Vickery.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

From their report it is evident that the Committee have been zealously working during the year. They have collected £49/9/6, and forwarded to the Federal Treasurer £46/16/-. They, after careful consideration, recommended a change as follows:—

That in view of the complications existing between the American Board of Missions and the Federal Committee, we do not affiliate with that Committee.

That in view of the fact that the Southern District Committee has already undertaken independent work on a definite plan, we join with them, forming a N.Z. Committee, involving the affiliation of the Middle District Committee also.

The Conference voted its approval of their proposals.

The following were elected as a Foreign Mission Committee:—Sisters Simes and Bagnall; J. B. Allen, H. Smith, F. Marment, J. C. Morton, J. Laing, R. Muir and C. Gibson.

The consideration of the memorandum re union with the Baptists was deferred until next Conference.

The Conference Essay, by Bro. Hadfield, on "The True Basis of Church Expansion," had for lack of time to be read at the tea-

meeting. It is too good to be condensed, but too long for insertion with this report, but as it has a world-wide application it would be good matter for the CHRISTIAN later on.

The tea meeting that followed was well patronised, and the building was crowded by the after meeting. Bro. Cooper from Bombay presided. Bro. Watt spoke well and forcibly on "Revivals." Bro. Hadfield's essay was well received, and deservedly so. The Ponsonby and Mt. Roskill choirs sang sweetly. Vocal and instrumental items were given by the young brethren, and so was finished a very happy day.

On Sunday the brethren hope for a great gathering, and if the weather is favorable a very happy time at the picnic on Easter Monday on the Tamiki River. Be that as it may, for what we have had in our Conference work we praise God from whom all blessings flow.

E. CARR.

AUCKLAND CONFERENCE NOTES.

Great credit is due to Sisters Bagnall, Edwards and Tabb and their band of willing workers for the very excellent lunch and tea provided.

The social meeting was a great success. It will interest all old Auckland brethren who are now in other parts to mention that the Ponsonby-rd. singers presented the conductor, W. H. Marson, with a flute, as a mark of esteem and for faithful service. At the close of the meeting a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had assisted to make the Conference successful was humorously moved by H. N. Bagnall.

On Saturday evening the Young Christians' Union held their meeting, C. Gibson in the chair. The lecture hall was comfortably filled. The meeting was of a devotional character, calculated to help and encourage the young disciples.

The united meeting for worship on Lord's day morning was most inspiring. F. Davies presided, and C. Watt spoke on "Contending for the Faith." In the afternoon the Bible School held a special children's service, Bren. Perkins, Marson and Marment being the speakers. In the evening the building was filled in every part, extra seating being provided, when Chas. Watt gave a masterly address on "The Focus of the Universe." One sister confessed her faith in Christ and was buried with her divine Lord in baptism.

The Conference picnic was held at Panmure on Easter Monday, and a very enjoyable day was spent by one and all.

The good feeling that has prevailed, the great interest manifested by all the brethren, and the advance in promises for the work, stamp this Conference as the most successful one we have yet held, and gives great cause for thankfulness to our heavenly Father.

E.V.

The tide is coming in.

Flood-mark in Auckland in Easter, 1905.

Great meeting—in delegates, in interest, in enthusiasm, and results.

Last Conference £37 in personal promises. This year £116!

Total pledges—churches and individuals—over £384. The appeal of Bren. Bagnall and Scott accounted for a good bit of this.

Frank Evans made an excellent President, and by his tact and wisdom greatly facilitated business. His advice was, "If you want to help, don't hinder; if you can't lift, don't lean." Good!

This was largely aided by the publication of all reports in book form, and taken as printed—a triumph of the Secretary, Ernest Vickery.

Rain greatly reduced our "Monster Temperance Demonstration" that was to be held in Western Park, but adjourned to the chapel. Nevertheless we struck a sturdy blow to aid the coming elections.

Decided to engage a third evangelist, and by securing a good man make a decided forward movement along true lines.

Dr. and Mrs. Kingsbury and two daughters, with Miss Wardell and Mr. and Mrs. Udell of St. Louis, were entertained at luncheon, and their society greatly enjoyed.

The Dr. is looking well; had a fine time crossing "the pond," and feels better than for some time past. May God bless him and his family, give them a safe and pleasant trip to the U.S.A., and bring them all back well and happy.

Over 400 sat down to the tea, and the after meeting was a "bumper." The programme was a dainty dish fit for a king. The two choirs—Ponsonby-road and Mt. Roskill—gave several fine pieces, and the various individual items were highly creditable.

Elder Davies, in the name of the Ponsonby-road choir, presented Will Marson, the popular singing leader, with a handsome flute, so covered over with silver keys that the writer was filled with a great joy that it wasn't given to him. He would have needed a library of directions how to find his way amongst them.

Bro. Hadfield read his Conference Essay at this meeting. The theme was "The True Line of Church Extension," and it was a splendid paper—short, pointed, practical, and with a lofty spiritual tone throughout. Its effect on the audience was excellent, and its influence will be, doubtless, lasting for good.

Chas. Watt gave an address on "The Need of a Revival," in which he showed that a religious revival that was aroused without reference to the reason, the heart and the will, but solely by appealing to the emotional element in man and women, was a bad revival; bad in its immediate effects and in its remote results.

Lord's day morning the united meeting for worship was one long to be remembered. The chapel was crowded, extra seats being brought in, to break the memorial loaf. Elder Davies presided, and the address was given by Chas. Watt on "Contending for the Faith." Truly an inspiring gathering.

Sunday evening was an overflowing gathering, every part available being filled. The address was on Christ, "The Focus of the Universe."

C.W.

From the Field

The field is the world.—Matt. 13:38

New Zealand

OAMARU.—Recently Robt. Wright, of Wellington, visited Oamaru in the interest of the Bible in Schools Referendum League. He spoke at the gospel service on April 9th. At the close Bro. McCrackett immersed the three who came out previously. The quarterly business meeting was held on April 12th. The church decided to ask Bro. McCrackett to remain a few months longer in Oamaru. The S.S. rally closed on April 13th with a special entertainment. The Reds gave six items, and the Blues six. This was in the nature of a competition, which the Reds were successful in winning. The rally was won by the Blues, with 783 attendances, the Reds having 749. The average attendance during the rally was 90, which is somewhat higher than ordinary. Sister McCrackett is now making good progress.

April 19.

W.K.

OAMARU.—On April 15th Sister Kate Hope, fifth daughter of Bro. Hope of Georgetown, passed to her rest after a long illness borne with Christian fortitude. Last Sunday evening a young man from Palmerston was immersed and afterwards received into fellowship. We had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Hay, a missionary on furlough from India, at this week's Mission Band meeting. He spoke on the need of workers, the opportunities and responsibilities. Bro. Langford from Christchurch was also present.

April 29.

W.K.

GORE.—We met yesterday for the first time in our new chapel—a commodious and convenient building, capable of seating nearly 200 people, and situated almost in the heart of the town. We held a short prayer meeting prior to the meeting for breaking of bread, at which T. Pryde presided. W. G. Alcorn addressed the church. 28 members broke bread, including 3 members from Maitaia. In the evening we had an attendance of 65, when Bro. Alcorn gave a stirring address on "Our Aim." We propose holding an opening social on the 28th inst., to be followed by a week's mission, and we respectfully ask for the prayers of the brotherhood.

April 17.

W.G.M.

WELLINGTON SOUTH.—On Lord's day, April 16, J. J. Franklyn of Nelson addressed the church here, and in the evening E. Lewis of Bell Grove preached the gospel. At the week-night prayer meeting on the 19th, addresses were given by E. Lewis and J. G. Price. All these brethren were passing through Wellington on their way to the Conference at Wanganui. On the 18th Duncan Campbell, one of the elders of the church here, was married to Sister Mrs. Hearle. Miss Bell attended the bride, and Geo. Day acted as best man. Numerous presents were made to the happy couple, and several speeches testifying to their active services in the church were delivered.

April 20.

A. F. TURNER.

WANGANUI.—Bren. Franklyn and Price took our gospel meeting recently, at the close of which the son of Bro. and Sister Bodington, of Spring Grove, came forward. Last evening, at our week-night meeting, we immersed him. Bro. Franklyn's address was most masterly. Our week meeting was conducted by Bro. Price, while Bro. Turner gave us an excellent address. We have had a most successful Conference, and think all are returning with greater inspiration for

the work, while we who remain have been cheered and much helped.

April 27.

W. T. CLAPHAM.

SOUTH DUNEDIN.—This morning we were addressed by S. Elborn. Our brother has been detained from attending the meetings for some very considerable time owing to a long illness. We are pleased to say he has so far recovered so as to speak again. S. J. Mathison addressed a fairly large audience this evening. At the conclusion of his address we had the joy of witnessing a young girl make the good confession.

April 30.

K.H.K.

Tasmania

GEEVESTON.—There have been 11 precious souls baptised since last report as a further result of the mission in this place. 6 more have made the good confession and will be baptised next Lord's day, making a total of 49 confessions to date, 33 of whom have been baptised. At a business meeting held last night, a piece of land in the best part of the township was formally donated, and £15 subscribed towards a building. Seeing that 5 weeks ago there was not a soul "contending for the faith as it was once for all delivered unto the saints," there is great cause to thank God and take courage.

May 3.

F. COLLINS.

West Australia

SOUTH FREMANTLE.—The Sunday School spent a most enjoyable day on Easter Monday at a picnic on Haly's Estate. There were forty children besides a number of parents. The Sunday School has been conducted by Sister Milbourne alone since its commencement. There have been four immersions during the year, two of whom are from the Sunday School. As we are located in the very centre of a large population, we hope for greater victories during the year on which we have entered.

April 27.

D. MCKINNON.

South Australia

YORK.—Splendid meetings yesterday. Two men received into fellowship. Harvest thanksgiving offering received for Home Missions. Chapel packed at night, "In Memoriam" service. Two baptisms. Y.P.S.C.E. held its annual social, April 28th; enthusiastic meeting, fine addresses, great success.

May 1.

H. J. HORSELL.

GILLES-ST. MISSION.—Anniversary services were held on April 23rd. The attendance at the meetings was only fair, especially in the afternoon. Jas. Manning and B. W. Huntsman were the speakers, and both gave splendid addresses. The scholars, under the leadership of Bro. Caldecott, rendered a number of selections. One young man made the good confession at our evening meeting. On Tuesday, April 25th, we held our annual social in the lecture hall at Grote-st., and a good audience came to encourage us in our efforts. The secretary's report showed that a more suitable building was required—a fact which we all heartily endorse—and that during the year two encouraging chairman's address, and many friends helped to make the evening cheerful and happy. Refreshments were handed round at the finish. Our special thanks are due to Bros. Caldecott, J. B. and

W. Gard, and Mrs. J. B. Gard, for their help, which contributed in no small manner to the success of our meetings.

April 27.

YORK.—We received one into fellowship this morning by faith and obedience. Bro. Fischer gave a good address. Splendid attendance at the gospel service.

May 8.

H. J. HORSELL.

PORT PIRIE.—Splendid congregations all day Sunday last. One was received in as a result of faith and obedience.

May 2.

W.C.O.

MILANG.—R. G. Cameron has been spending a short holiday in our district. He addressed the church at Milang last Lord's day morning, and spoke at Point Sturt afternoon and night. Our brother also delivered a lantern lecture on "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness," which was both interesting and instructive. His visit was much appreciated.

May 4.

G.S.B.

MOONTA.—Since our return from Port Pirie we have had good meetings, and to night a young man made the good confession. Three others have appointed to meet me in my study. We have learned from experience that personal dealing with the people in their homes is the most successful method of winning souls to Christ, and of keeping those who are won faithful. We would here say that every church should appoint one or more earnest, intelligent women to the good work of Bible reading and visiting among their own sex. Paul evidently knew the value of such when he wrote: "Help those women who labored with me in the gospel."

May 7.

W. MOFFIT.

QUEENSTOWN.—We regret to have to report the death of two of our members—our aged Sister Davies, who has been in feeble health for some time past, and Bro. Ismenoux, who was a bright and happy follower of his Master, and never happier than when doing something for him or his brethren. The preparation of the Lord's table early every Lord's day morning was his delight, and it was always kept spotless. To say that we all loved him and that we sadly miss his happy face and cheery voice is only a slight expression of our feeling. On Wednesday last we had a social evening to bid farewell to Bro. Hunt, who has labored for the church as evangelist for the past 12 months.

KADINA.—On April 23rd our Sunday School anniversary was commenced. About 70 children were present. "Character Building," and "Parental Responsibility" were the themes of the afternoon and evening respectively. On Monday the children were taken to the Show Ground close by, and in spite of the rain and mud outside, had a good time in the show room. On Thursday following we held our children's demonstration, and it was an unqualified success. The children sang well, recited well and behaved well, and so pleased were some of the audience that they were heard to say, "they had often given a shilling to hear worse!" The report of the secretary, Bro. Freer, showed the School to be in a healthy up-grade condition. On the following Lord's day night the scholars again rendered, in the presence of a crowded house, their song service. Since last report two have been baptised and received. One of these meets at Bews. A pleasing feature here at present is the marked improvement in the morning meetings during the last few months. This morning a brother who had been out of fellowship for many months was restored at his earnest desire. Our outlook is cheering.

May 7.

G.B.M.

Victoria

PRESTON.—One received in last Lord's day and one confession, J. G. Shain preaching. To-day one received in by letter.

May 7.

W.W.

BLACKBURN.—Four who confessed their Saviour during our recent mission were baptised at Doncaster last Wednesday night, and four more obeyed their Lord this afternoon at Surrey Hills. We have to thank our South Richmond brethren for giving the services of P. J. Pond to conduct the mission.

May 7.

W.R.

BALLARAT (Dawson-st.).—We were glad to have C. Martin with us at the morning service; also his daughter, Mrs. E. Barrett, from Pretoria, who with her husband is returning to South Africa this week. We had a visit also from Bro. Bennett, of Bendigo. The annual collection in aid of the Dorcas Society was taken up, and realised the sum of £2/8/9. The Society is doing a good work in helping the needy.

May 7.

T. H. VANSTAN.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.—On Wednesday, May 3rd, at the distribution of prizes, a lantern entertainment was held in the chapel, Dorcas-st. Bro. Webster very kindly gave the views, which were much appreciated. Bro. Peters, superintendent, presided, and James Smith presented the prizes to the scholars. Solos were rendered during the evening, and an enjoyable time was spent. During the past month two of the scholars have joined the church.

May 8.

G. CASSON.

WARRAGUL.—I am pleased to report that the cause of Christ has been largely strengthened by the late Harward and Pittman mission. From the time the mission commenced the audiences were good. On several nights the tent could not hold all who desired to get in. The results of the mission were thirty-three additions, all of whom are showing by their splendid attendance that they have found the "Pearl of Great Price." We ask for the prayers of the brethren that the Word of God may have free course and be glorified.

April 28.

R. W. JUDD.

BARKER'S CREEK.—Crowded meeting to-night. Memorial service to the late Sister Milford. At the close, Ethel Frost made the good confession. On Easter Day J. Bauer preached.

April 30.

W. McCANCE.

DRUMMOND.—A special service was held this afternoon in memory of Sister J. Gall, who fell asleep recently in New Zealand. Reference was also made to T. Beer, who departed to be with Christ whilst in New South Wales. The meeting was well attended.

April 30.

W. McCANCE.

Here and There

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

Two confessions at Brisbane lately.

A brother sends us £5 for W. W. Davey fund.

One confession at Balmain-st. last Sunday evening.

The jubilee of the Hindmarsh church will take place in September next.

A brother wants information about "helps," but he has not made himself clear.

One young man made the good confession at Lygon-st. on Sunday night.

Three confessions on Sunday night at City Temple, Sydney.

Two weeks ago there was one confession at Goolwa, South Australia.

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

Two confessions at Point Sturt, S.A., last Lord's day, G. S. Bennett preaching.

The special Home Mission collection at Hindmarsh last Sunday amounted to £3/9/9.

There was one confession at St. Arnaud last Sunday evening, Arthur Anderson speaking.

H. G. Harward makes some important statements about the week of prayer on page 248.

One confession at Preston on Sunday evening, and one received in the morning by letter.

W. J. Brooker, 32 Dight-st., Collingwood, has been appointed secretary to the church there.

On April 15th, at the close of H. J. Banks' address at Subiaco, W.A., there was one confession.

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

The Sisters' Prayer Meeting Committee will visit N. Carlton on Wednesday, May 17th, at 2.30 p.m.

The Secretary of the Middle District Conference of New Zealand is now R. J. Dick, Roseneath, Wellington.

The platform of the Hindmarsh church has been enlarged, the work being a much needed improvement.

W. Smedley arrived in Fremantle on the 17th April, and commenced his work with the church there on the 23rd.

The Sisters' Temperance Committee will hold a meeting at North Fitzroy on Wednesday, May 31st, at 3 p.m.

Two young men made the good confession at Marrickville on April 23rd, at the close of W. J. Williams' address.

The General Dorcas rally will be held in Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10 a.m. on Thursday, 18th inst. All sisters welcome.

The Hindmarsh church has decided to restart the penny system to raise funds for Foreign Mission and Home Improvement work.

It will be interesting and instructive to see and hear, on Tuesday, May 23rd, how Balmain-st. church works. See Coming Events.

O. A. Carr Green, evangelist of Collingwood church, will be disengaged at the end of June, and will be glad of a fresh engagement. Address 5 Egan-st., West Richmond.

Bro. Ewers preached to good audiences at Fremantle the last Sunday in March and the first three Sundays in April, J. Beck acceptably filling the Perth platforms for three Lord's day evenings, and Bro. Lucraft one.

The little church in Nth. Perth has secured the Town Hall of that suburb for future meetings, and Bro. Hagger was to open the work with a fortnight's mission commencing on the 30th. ult. The outlook is bright.

At a special gathering of the Hindmarsh Dorcas Society the President, Mrs. R. Young, presented Mrs. T. Roberts, who is leaving for the West, with a beautifully bound Bible, and to Miss W. Roberts a neatly bound Volume of Choral Praise.

We are under obligations to our old friend, E. Carr, for the very excellent report of the Auckland Conference which appears in this issue. It needed no "licking into shape," and in half an hour after its arrival it was in the hands of the compositors.

A Home Missionary meeting will be held at North Richmond on Thursday, May 25th, at 8 p.m.

We publish this week all Conference reports in hand up to Monday night. Next week all reports of late Conferences should appear, besides the usual contents of the paper. We want it understood that if reports do not appear next week it is because of their non-arrival.

We are requested to say that the officers of the New South Wales Conference Committee are as follows:—President, James Hunter, Marrickville-road, Marrickville; Treasurer, J. Stimson, 45 Glebe-road, Glebe; Secretary, Thos. C. Walker, Myrtle-street, Petersham.

Those owing the Austral Publishing Co. either an account for the "Australian Christian," or other things, will greatly oblige by a prompt remittance. We need the money to satisfactorily conduct our business. Send to-day.

W. G. Alcorn and wife and Miss Maud Ladbrook leave the Bluff for Brisbane on Monday, 15th May, by the s.s. Moeraki. Bro. Alcorn will be spending a few weeks with his friends prior to leaving for Bethany College, America. Any church desiring his services, please write him at Boonah.

The Cheltenham church celebrated its anniversary April 30th and May 1st. J. Inglis Wright spoke in the evening of Sunday to an audience which filled the chapel to overflowing. On Monday evening the tea and public meeting was attended by a large crowd. E. T. Penny presided at the after meeting, and addresses were delivered by P. A. Dickson, J. Inglis Wright, F. G. Dunn and A. W. Connor. The singing, in charge of Bro. Daff, was very fine.

We have a few copies of the bound volume of the CHRISTIAN for 1904, which we are selling for 15/-, carriage paid 17/6. It has a most carefully prepared index, contains 726 pages, and is a perfect library of the thought amongst Australasian churches, besides containing the current history of the cause we advocate. Even now these books are of great interest, and they will become more so with the receding years.

The annual business meeting of the Sunday School Union of churches of Christ in Victoria will be held in the schoolroom of the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., on Wednesday, May 17th, at 8 p.m. Business:—Consideration of annual report, balance sheet, amendments to constitution, election of officers, and such other business that may be brought forward. A large attendance of church members, School officers and teachers is requested. Remember date and come.—J. Y. POTTS.

WHY SHOULD I TELL THE "GLAD TIDINGS"?

An interesting competition on the above subject, open to all. Not more than 150 words nor less than 50. At least two reasons must be given, and not more than five. Conditions must be strictly complied with. Only one prize to the same writer during 1905, though paragraphs will be published in order of merit if sent in. Must reach us on or before June 12th, and at most a page will be published in the CHRISTIAN soon after. A copy of "Great Salvation," or any other book up to equal value, will be posted to the writers of the three answers appearing first on the page.

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.

This week we publish the report of the Tasmanian Conference. We are glad to note that the brethren in the island State are taking hold of things in real earnest.

The following were present at the morning meeting, Dawson-st., Ballarat, last Sunday week:—Bro. and Sister Rees, Bayswater; Bro. and Sister Smith, Dandenong; Bro. and Sister Smedley, and Bro. and Sister Crouch, Doncaster; Bro. and Sister Hunter, Hawthorn; Percy Dickson, Sydney; Roy Maston, Swanston-street.

T. W. Smith, Secretary of the Tasmanian Home Mission Committee, writes:—"We have to thank Joseph Adams, jun., for the report of the proceedings of the twelfth Annual Conference appearing in this issue. Bro. Adams acted his part nobly as press correspondent, not only for the CHRISTIAN, but for the local papers as well, and cannot be praised too much for his efforts."

The Victorian Conference was brought to a splendid close by the concert under the auspices of the Sisters' Executive in aid of the general Dorcas work. The Lygon-st. chapel was filled to overflowing, over which large audience Mrs. J. A. Davies presided. Nat Haddow had charge of the programme. Everybody we saw appeared delighted. What we would do without our musical friends we do not know. The evening was a great delight to all.

On Tuesday, April 25th, in the Congregational chapel, Kadina, a very pretty wedding took place, when Ethel May, second daughter of G. B. Moysey, was, in the presence of a crowded assembly, united in marriage to S. J. Wilson, of Swanston-st. church, Melbourne. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father. The entire church was individually invited to the wedding, of whom some 80 responded, and who after the presentation in the chapel were received and entertained by the parents of the bride in the school room adjoining. The usual sentiments expressive of kindly wishes and good hopes were proposed and responded to in happy and feeling terms. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left Kadina for Melbourne the next morning.

On the 20th ult. a farewell social was tendered Sister Ethel Moysey by the members at Kadina on the eve of her departure for her new home in Melbourne. J. Wright, who occupied the chair, spoke of her faithful labors in church and school, and mentioned the fact that during her sixteen months' sojourn in Kadina she had never been absent from her seat in school or church but once, and then she was out of the district. On behalf of the church he presented her with a handsome silver-plated cruet. J. T. Train spoke of the efficient service she had rendered as leader of the church's psalmody, and on behalf of the choir handed her a beautifully bound copy of Sankey's "Songs and Solos." Miss Moysey replied feelingly and in graceful terms. Whatever she had done she looked upon as her simple duty. She thanked the brethren for their kindly gifts and the kindlier words that accompanied them.

"At the last meeting of the Victorian Conference Executive Committee the Programme Committee appointed to make arrangements for the proposed Federal Conference submitted the correspondence

received from the various States regarding the representation expected from each State. It was found that the representation from States was of such a meagre character that it could not be possibly reckoned as a 'Federal' Conference. The Committee felt the serious responsibility under the circumstances of persisting in calling the Conference; and after very careful consideration, and with much regret, felt it to be their duty to pass the following resolution:—"In view of the failure of the sister States to respond satisfactorily to the call to frame a suitable programme, and the inadequate representation intimated, that we do not deem it advisable to proceed further in the matter of the proposed Federal Conference." It has therefore been abandoned for the present.—M. McLELLAN, Conference Secretary."

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

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|--------------------------------------|--------|
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| Cheltenham, per Sister Gouldthorpe | 1 2 6 |
| Ascot Vale, per Sister Martin | 0 13 6 |
| Collingwood, per Sister Rowles | 0 10 0 |
| Brim | 0 10 0 |
| Merrigum | 0 4 0 |
| Sister Morley, Prahran | 0 10 0 |
| Sister Manroe | 0 10 0 |
| Sister Mephram, Lygon-st. | 0 1 0 |
| Sister Nesbitt, North Fitzroy | 0 10 6 |
| A Sister | 0 12 6 |
| Sister Olney, Preston | 0 5 0 |
| Three Sisters, Bunyip | 0 3 6 |
| Bro. Manroe | 0 5 0 |
| T. Rhodes, Tocumwal, N.S.W. | 2 0 0 |
| A. Bailey, Ascot Vale | 0 10 0 |
| Wm. Dickson, Lygon-st. | 1 0 0 |
| Collection at Conference | 27 6 3 |
| Church, S. Melbourne, Conference Fee | 0 10 0 |
| Meredith | 0 10 0 |
| Ascot Vale | 1 0 0 |
| Fitzroy | 1 0 0 |
| Brim | 0 10 0 |
| Fairfield Park | 0 10 0 |
| Brighton | 1 0 0 |
| Maryborough | 0 10 0 |
| Kyabram | 0 10 0 |
| Blackburn | 0 10 0 |
| Richmond S. | 1 0 0 |
| Barker's Creek | 0 10 0 |
| Taradale | 0 10 0 |
| Williamstown | 1 0 0 |
| Pakenham | 0 10 0 |
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Coming Events

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

MAY 14 & 16.—Church of Christ, Fairfield, S.S. Anniversary Services. May 14—Afternoon at 3. T. J. Cook; 7 p.m., E. H. P. Edwards. Tuesday, May 16—8 p.m., Distribution of Prizes by A. L. Gibson. Chairman, E. H. P. Edwards. Bright singing by children, assisted by visiting friends, and recitations.

MAY 14 & 15.—Preston Bible School Anniversary will be held on Sunday, May 14. F. M. Ludbrook will address the scholars at 3 p.m. W. Dickens will preach in the evening at 7 p.m. in the Bradford Hall. On Monday, 15th, a Tea Meeting will be held from 6 p.m. till 7 p.m. Adults, 1/-; outside children, 6d. 8 p.m. Concert and Distribution of Prizes. Free. Members of sister churches invited.

MAY 21 & 23.—Church Anniversary, Balmains-street, Richmond, postponed to these dates. Special Services, Sunday, May 21, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. First Annual Tea, Tuesday, 23rd, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults, 1/-; Children, 6d. Grand Public Meeting and Demonstration of Church Work, 8 p.m. Free. All invited.

DEATH.

NIMMO.—At 42 Lauder-rd., Edinburgh, Scotland, on 21st March, Margaret Craig Abercrombie, wife of the late John Nimmo, in her 80th year. Full of years, strong in faith, she passed away in sure hope of a glorious resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WANTED.

GIRL as General; wages 10/-; must be clean, smart, and good cook. Apply by letter with copy of references to 516 Sydney-rd., Brunswick.

WANTED KNOWN.

Victorian Church of Christ Temperance Union have prepared a list of Temperance Workers who are helping the various Bands of Hope in the Union by giving addresses, etc. All who are willing to help in this good work are requested to hand in their names and addresses to the Secretary, Mr. F. WATSON, Holden-st., North Fitzroy.

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The Society of Christian Endeavor

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

Missions in Roman Catholic Countries

Topic for May 29.

THIS is a somewhat sad subject for an Endeavor meeting. We have to consider the need of missions in countries not only professedly Christian, but boasting, it may be, in possessing the pure religion of Christ as contrasted with the corruptions of Protestantism. How the problem of the world's evangelisation would be simplified if once a field was touched by those who call Christ Lord it was unnecessary to re-enter that field! But we must sow the good seed of the kingdom where tares have already been sown. Wherever the pure gospel of Christ has not gone, and primitive Christianity has not yet been established, there is a field for our future possession.

When we think of the darkness in which the mass of the people in Roman Catholic countries dwell we see the need of the light of the gospel. Even in Continental Europe this is apparent, but to be fully appreciated must be seen in those lands where Rome has full sway, where the people have hardly been touched by the reforming influence. Consider the republics of South America. Take the condition of Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines: our own missionaries there give a dark picture of what Rome can do and tolerate in the name of religion.

Rome's missionary methods would hardly commend themselves to us. Xavier's phrase was *feci Christianos*, "I have made Christians," which hints at much. The Jesuits "established the Inquisition in Asia, Africa and America; wherever possible they used the secular arm; they tortured and massacred both the heathen and the Christians of other churches (e.g., they burnt alive the Metropolitan of the Syrian Church in India in 1654); they tried (but in vain) to win the Brahmans by imposture; they ruined their work on the Congo and the Zambesi by 'unholy accommodation of Christian truth and observances to heathenish superstitions and customs,' as Mr. Rowley, of the S.P.G., expresses it; and in India, according to Bishop Caldwell, of the S.P.G., the Roman Christians, 'in intellect, habit, and morals, do not differ from the heathen in the smallest degree.'" Any interested reader who might like to study a little more along this line could read with profit Eugene Stock's article on "Missions, Roman Catholic" in the *Protestant Dictionary*; then for the sake of fairness, as well as increased interest, see "Missions to the Heathen" in the *Catholic Dictionary*.

Rome's treatment of the Bible, the ignorance of her people concerning it, the lack of inducement (to use a mild and safe expression) on the part of the leaders to get the people to read it—these are amongst the worst features of Roman Catholicism. Ignorance and neglect here have disastrous effects on life and character.

The Romish authorities have hindered Protestants in their endeavors to give the people the Word of God. It could be said of France and the work of the Bible Society agents there half a century ago: "There are many individual exceptions, but speak-

ing broadly, the Roman Catholic clergy were angrily opposed to the colporteurs, and to the organisation behind them. 'There is hardly a sermon preached from the Romish pulpits,' said Mr. F. Monod, at the anniversary meeting in 1841, 'wherein the circulation of the Bible is not attacked; hardly a charge given by a bishop in which there is not a paragraph against the Bible Society. They burn the Word of God when they can get hold of it, but where they burn one Bible we send one hundred; thither our colporteurs go next day, and are sure to sell ten times as many copies as have been burned in that place.'"

You will remember George Borrow, author of "The Bible in Spain." For the sake of that Bible he suffered a good deal, being twice imprisoned. He told us of the peasantry of Estremadura, La Mancha, and Andalusia as being ignorant not only of the contents of the Bible, but of its very character: "Some who could read, and pretended to be acquainted with it, said that it contained hymns to the Virgin, and was written by the Pope; yet the peasantry of these three possessions were by no means the least enlightened of Spain."

Cuba, a Roman Catholic island, was "hermetically sealed to the introduction of the Scriptures." Sunday morning was devoted to business and trade, the evening to the bull-ring and cock-pit, the night to the theatres. "The gospel was nowhere preached, the Bible was nowhere to be obtained, and a million of the children of Ham were groaning in the three-fold thralldom of slavery, ignorance and sin."

A Roman Catholic, Michael J. F. McCarthy, contrasts Catholic Ireland with Protestant Scotland, much to the latter's advantage. He says, as part at least of the cause of difference: "In my time I have occasionally met a Scotsman who knew some one particular thing better than his own immediate business. What was that one other thing? In my experience it was the Bible; not commentaries on the Bible, but the Bible, pure and simple. How different it is with a Catholic Irishman! To him the Bible is less known, perhaps, than any of the celebrated books that have been preserved for the information of humanity. A Catholic Irishman may be acquainted with Shakespeare, Rabelais, Omar Khayam, Cervantes, Tolstoy, or Tennyson, and he may know something of all the Toms, Jacks, Bills and Harrys and Marys, the popularity hunters who compose literary anodynes at the present day. But on one subject he is more ignorant than the Don Cossack, and that subject is the contents of the Bible."

It is but fair to remember the avowed reason for hostility to the circulation of the Scriptures. In 1849 the Pope denounced the British and Foreign Bible Society for spreading copies of the Scriptures "translated contrary to the rules of the church into the vulgar tongue, and most wretchedly perverted." Rome's Bible-burning propensities have not quite died out. A little over two years ago we had the bonfire of "idolised Bibles" in Fiji. At the time Cardinal Moran said the Protestant version was unauthorized, and he gave as a possible explanation of

the occurrence the suggestion that the natives when Protestants had idolised their Bibles, and on turning to Catholicism, had showed the genuineness of their conversion by burning their idols!

Some little time ago we heard of Rome making an advance movement in certain quarters by circulating among the people the Word in the vernacular. Let us hope the practice keeps up. If from our topic we can learn to prize the Bible more, it will be an evening well spent. Let no Protestant who is not a Bible lover and Bible reader find fault with the ignorance of Roman Catholics.

Syllabus: July—December, 1905.

JULY.

- 3...The Making of a Christian: His Destiny, 1 Jno. 2: 15-17; 3: 1-3. (Consecration Meeting.)
- 10...The Indwelling Christ, Col. 2: 6-10; 3: 8-16.
- 17...The Message of the Flowers, Matt. 6: 28-34; James 1: 9-11.
- 24...Preparing for our Heavenly Home, Phil. 3: 20, 21; Heb. 11: 8-10, 13-16.
- 31...Missions in Japan, Micah 5: 2, 4, 12, 13.

AUGUST.

- 7...First-fruits for God, Lev. 23: 9-14; Deut. 16: 9-12. (Consecration Meeting.)
- 14...The Building of Character, 2 Peter 1: 1-11; Jude 20: 21.
- 21...The Duty of Winsomeness, Prov. 15: 13-15; 17: 22; 1 Cor. 9: 19-22.
- 28...Mission Work Among Women. (Home and Foreign Fields.) Acts 16: 13-18; Tit. 2: 3-5.

SEPTEMBER.

- 4...The Abundant Life: How to Get It? How Use It? John 10: 7-10; Rom. 5: 19-21. (Consecration Meeting.)
- 11...What is Practical Christianity? Jas. 2: 14-26.
- 18...The Great Surrender, Acts 9: 1-22; Rom. 6: 16-23.
- 25...Our Home Mission Work, Matt. 9: 35-38; 10: 1-15.

OCTOBER.

- 2...The Joys of Church Membership, 1 Thess. 5: 5-15; Luke 12: 8.
- 9...The Christian's Trials and Triumphs, Jas. 1: 1-8.
- 16...Better Work our Society Should Do, Heb. 6: 7-12; 13: 20, 21.
- 23...Sacred Songs that Have Helped, Eph. 5: 15-20; Col. 3: 15-17. (A Praise Service.)
- 30...Our Foreign Mission Work, Dan. 2: 31-45.

NOVEMBER.

- 6...Am I Keeping my Christian Endeavor Covenant? Mal. 2: 5, 6; Psa. 51: 6; 2 Cor. 8: 21. (Consecration Meeting.)
- 13...The Dangers of Indulgence, Prov. 23: 29-35; Isa. 5: 22-25. (A Temperance Meeting.)
- 20...Medical Missions (at Home and Abroad), Mark 1: 29-34.
- 27...God's Wonderful Works, Psa. 40: 1-11. (Thanksgiving Service.)

DECEMBER.

- 4...Our One Excuse, Rom. 14: 1-12. (Consecration Meeting.)
- 11...The City of God, Rev. 22: 1-8.
- 18...What We Stand For, 1 Tim. 3: 14-16; 1 Peter 2: 9.
- 25...The Brotherhood of Man, 1 John 2: 7-11; 3: 12-15. A Christmas Missionary Meeting.

Notes and News.

Secretaries are asked to send any correspondence relating to the next Council meeting, 31st inst., to H. G. Peacock, 62 Abbotsford-st., Abbotsford, as the Union Secretary will be visiting country societies from May 23rd to June 5th.—G.I.W.

We desire to express our thanks to Sisters Kemp, Allen and Campbell for their assistance at song service prior to rally Easter Monday night; also to Bro. Cook for his splendid services as musical conductor.—G.I.W.

The Week of Prayer

May 21st to 28th has been set apart by Conference as a week of special prayer in all the churches in Victoria. I would like to urge preachers, officers, and members to begin at once to plan for its observance. "It is time to pray." Let all unite in enthusiastic co-operation in this season of intercession. If meetings cannot be held in chapels, have them in the homes of members or friends. If large numbers cannot assemble, let the two or three gather together in Jesus' name. Those who cannot meet with others can observe the week of prayer in their homes. "At evening, at morning, and at noon, let us pray and cry aloud unto God."

The following topics may be suggestive:—

- May 21st—Thanksgiving. Psalm 63: 1-7.
 " 22nd—Prayer and Evangelisation.
 1 Tim. 2: 1-4; Eph. 6: 18-19;
 2 Thess. 3: 1-2.
 " 23rd—The Preparation for Pentecost.
 Waiting, Luke 24: 49; Acts 1:
 4 Praying, Luke 24: 53; Acts
 1: 14. United, Acts 2: 1.
 " 24th—The Power at Pentecost. Acts
 2: 1-4; Acts 1: 8; 5: 32; Eph.
 5: 18; 6: 10.
 " 25th—OUR MOTTO. "EACH ONE
 WIN ONE." Matt. 4: 19; John
 1: 40-42, 45; 4: 28-29.
 " 26th—A Revival in me, in my home, in
 our congregation, among our
 friends. Psalm 51: 9-13; Luke
 19: 9; Rev. 3: 15-16; Mark 5:
 19-20.
 " 28th—The Perpetual Presence. Matt.
 28: 20.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.

H. G. HARWARD.

The Pillar of Salt: A Story of Station Life.

BY JOHN ROBERT CLOW.

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The Royal Colonial Institute Journal, London, says:

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The Tocsin, Melbourne Labor Paper:

It has won the appreciation of the leading newspapers, and is well worth perusal.

The Sydney Morning Herald:

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The Brisbane Courier:

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Obituary

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

PENALUNA.—Richard Penaluna fell asleep in Jesus on April 21st, at the age of 53 years. He was a native of Hillston, Cornwall, and for the past 20 years was a prominent member of Northcott's Bendigo Band, being a trombone player of great ability. He became a member of the church on Jan. 31, 1904, having been immersed into Christ by C. A. Quick, and hence his stay with us has only been of short duration, but it can be said of our brother that for him to live was Christ, to die is gain. He attended the meetings regularly when he was able, but latterly was prevented by illness. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the bereaved ones, especially our dear Sister Penaluna, who has been a member with us for the past 20 years, together with her son Willie and daughter Eadie, who are both members.

Bendigo.

J. S.

BRITTAIN.—On Jan. 10th, Jacob Brittain entered into his eternal rest. He was identified with the church for many years. He was a faithful and earnest Christian, and all who knew him esteemed him very highly. He had a long illness, which was borne with patience and Christian forbearance. His family, consisting of wife, two sons and three daughters, are nearly all in the church. Dr. Cook officiated at the graveside at Bendigo Cemetery in the presence of a large number of friends and loving brethren. We rejoice to know he died in the blessed hope of a glorious resurrection, when our risen Lord shall claim his own.

Bendigo.

C. A. Q.

MILFORD.—It is with sorrow that we record the death of Sister Amos Milford, which occurred under sad and distressing circumstances. On Thursday, April 6th, our sister went to a neighbor's to procure some honey, and several hours afterwards was found lying with her head downward in an unconscious condition, probably occasioned by a fit brought on by fright, through being attacked by bees. She never regained consciousness, and after a week of evident suffering, passed to her rest on Thursday, April 13th. She was but 26 years of age, being the eldest daughter of James Symes, one of our oldest members, and leaves a husband and a boy of 3 years. She was baptised on Nov. 10th, 1895, and has always striven to follow her Lord in her own quiet manner. Her disposition was a cheerful one, and the esteem in which she was held was evidenced by the large number that attended when her remains were laid away in the Harcourt Cemetery, the writer conducting the service and A. W. Connor giving a brief address.

Barker's Creek, Vic.

W. McCANCE.

HAINES.—On Monday morning, April 24th, at the residence of his son-in-law (W. C. Craigie), Thomas Haines, through an accident, brought his long and useful life to a close. He had passed the ninety-seventh mile-stone, and for his age was in fairly good health and spirits. He was a colonist of seventy-eight years, residing in Tasmania during the early portion of that time. He joined the church in Hobart under the ministry of O. A. Carr. For the past eighteen years he was a most faithful and consistent member of Lygon-st. Our brother brought up five of a family every one of which is in full membership with the church in Lygon-st, a unique position seldom, if ever, attained by large families. Another feature that adds to the uniqueness of the position is

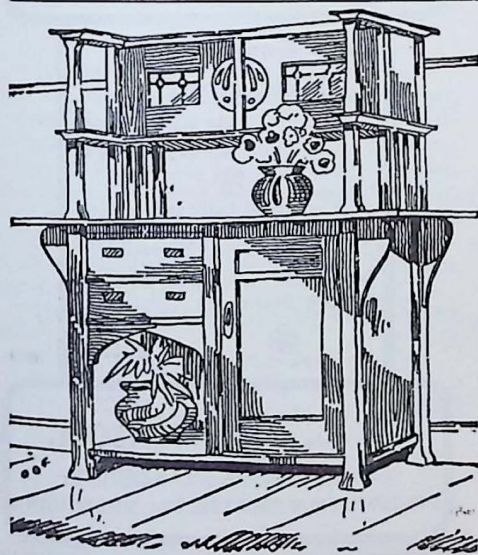
the fact that both husbands and wives of this family are likewise members at Lygon-st. His remains were laid to rest on the Wednesday following his death, in the same grave where the remains of his wife have lain for some twelve years. Like a ripe shock of corn he has gone into the eternal Garner's presence. The church expresses sympathy for and with the bereaved brethren, and in its prayers commends them to the heavenly Father who careth for his own. It is another link that binds us to heaven.

J. J.

GALL.—Another of our faithful ones, Sister J. Gall, has fallen asleep. In January, 1904, they sold out at Drummond, Victoria, and left for New Zealand, after a short stay in Melbourne, shortly after attending the Conference, a privilege they rarely missed. By her patient suffering, which was severe, she even surprised those who knew what she had to endure. It was a great blow to the church, as she and her husband had endeared themselves to all by their consistent living, and many petitions were offered for her recovery, but it was not to be, and at midnight, April 1st, 1905, in Sydneyham, N. Z., at the age of 41, our loved sister fell asleep. Sister Gall was baptised at Drummond by Stephen Cheek on the 29th June, 1879. Since then she has lived a true Christian life, and in spite of bad weather or roads was always at the Lord's table. Our warmest sympathy is extended to her husband and the other sorrowing ones left.

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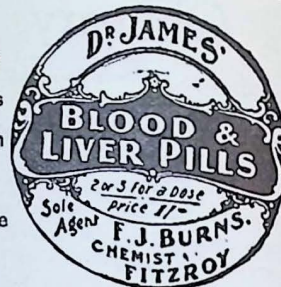
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Rachel Sylvestre

A Story of
the Pioneers

Jessie Brown Pounds

CHAPTER XVIII.

A NEW ARRIVAL.

The next I heard from the Sylvestres, the Colonel was very ill. Ross Turner drove up in his fine new buggy and imparted this information. The old man had taken cold from exposure on the night of the fire, and on the following day had gone to bed. Rachel had been caring for him night and day.

It seemed strange that five days should have been allowed to pass, since the fire, without any effort on our part to learn of the welfare of our neighbors, especially just after such a calamity had befallen them. But my father was a driving farmer, and had come home from Rocksford full of enterprise. The fences must be mended and the sheds put into good condition for the winter. So I had little time at my own disposal.

I will admit, however, that there was another reason. My boyish pride was still at work, and I thought that after all that had happened, the advances should come from the Sylvestres.

Turner leaned over the dashboard and looked confidential. "If the old man should die now, I suppose Rachel would get it all."

I suppressed a desire to cut him across the mouth with his own buggy-whip, and merely said:

"I'm sure I don't know anything about it."

"It ain't likely he'd do anything for Martha, after the way she has acted. Now, I wouldn't so much mind Martha. A little too pious, maybe, but that ain't the worst thing in the world, 'specially in a woman. But Rachel! She'd lead a man a life of it, now, wouldn't she, Joe? She'd just set her little foot down on a fellow's neck, and keep it there for lifetime. Have you any idea how much there is, Joe?"

"How much there is of what?" I asked sulkily.

"How much the old man is worth?"

"Not the least idea in the world."

"That's very strange, when you've lived by him so long. But Rachel is a queer one. A fellow don't like her, and yet he can't keep away from her. I don't like her, and I've always liked Arabel. There's a girl one can

have a little fun with, and not be everlastingly put down and domineered over. But old man Sylvestre has got a pretty pile of money—there ain't no denyin' that."

I was glad when the selfish scamp drove away. I walked over to the Sylvestres, and found Rachel looking more worried than I had ever seen her. I condemned myself mercilessly when I saw the cares which had settled down upon her. There was no man about the place, and though there was no stock to care for, yet there was wood and water to be brought and many errands to be done. Her father was in bed and seemed almost helpless.

I busied myself about the place for a little while, and then went in to ask if I could be of service to the sick man.

Rachel shook her head. I more than suspected that her father was a difficult invalid.

"I can manage very well," she said. "There is no immediate danger, but the shock has been great and he needs a long rest. But there is something that you can do for me, Joseph. It is a great deal to ask, but there is no one else of whom I can ask it. Can you get the word to Martha, and ask her to come home?"

I suppose my surprise showed itself in my face. At any rate, Rachel knew very well what was in my mind.

"Father has consented," she said quickly. "He imagines himself dying, and I told him that Martha must come."

I had learned long before that this slim young woman was a mistress of diplomacy. How she managed the old man no one ever knew; but I suppose she had allowed his fears of death to run riot until his resentment

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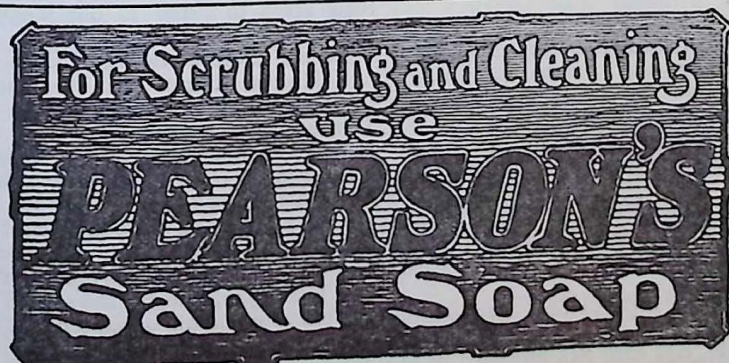
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weakened and his natural parental affection asserted itself.

"I will go to Rocksford to-day, and bring Martha home with me," I said, with boyish eagerness.

Rachel's manner at once became chilly, and I realised that I had made a mistake. "There is no such need of haste," she said, in her most formal tone. "Mr. and Mrs. Osburn would bring her home, if they knew she was needed. Perhaps Ross Turner would go, if I should ask him."

If she should ask him! She should not ask anything of that mercenary scoundrel. I hastened to put on my most humble manner, and to assure my lady that I would ride over to Rocksford, see Mr. and Mrs. Osburn, and ask them to bring Martha home as soon as convenient.

Then I departed, feeling much like a worm in the dust. It was thus that I usually felt after an interview with Rachel Sylvestre.

Queenie and I had a fine ride together. The woods were in their autumn glory, and the air had that frosty nip which is better than a tonic. Here and there I reined up beside the fence to talk to some farmer who was at work in the clearing. Ah! those great fires of log and brush, in which so much of the timber of this country was consumed! They were a part of the price of civilisation, and civilisation always comes high.

I was almost within sight of Rocksford when I was joined by another rider, a lightly built young man—I guessed him at twenty-eight, though he might have been much more—well dressed, and with the suggestion of conscious superiority about him.

We passed the time of day, after the manner of travellers in that time, and we rode on together. His name, he said, was Charles Easton. He had come to Rocksford recently from New York, and was thinking of investing in land and settling in the vicinity.

"The people hereabouts have made a mistake in beginning life in such a narrow way," he said. "They have allowed the land to be cut up into small farms, instead of keeping it in tracts large enough to be farmed with real profit. I have been managing several thousand acres, so these clearings look rather small to me."

"We poor folks have to farm what we can get," I said. "Besides, with no markets within reach, there would be no profit in large farming."

We argued the matter for some moments. He was not convinced, nor was I, and perhaps that is why we never liked each other. Possibly I have confused later impressions with those of that first meeting, but it seems to me in the recollection that I always disliked Charles Easton, always listened with distrust to the assertions concerning himself.

Yet I can not tell why. His face had not the strength of Stephen's nor the refinement of Bro. Cady's, but certainly it was not unmistakably coarse. He was boastful, but not offensively so—not more so, indeed, than many well-intentioned men I knew. It is hard for me to tell why I disliked him. Perhaps it was because I saw he had set me down as a backwoods gawky. That would have been a convincing reason.

He asked me where I came from, and

when I told him what neighborhood it was, he at once inquired about Colonel Sylvestre.

"I know some of his friends in New York State," he said. "I must pay my respects to him, and ask his advice in placing my investments."

I opened my mouth to tell him of the Colonel's misfortune and illness, and of my message to Rocksford; then caution interposed and I kept still. He was no acquaintance of the Sylvestres, and was entitled to no confidence concerning them.

We were at Osburns by this time, and my new acquaintance and I parted company. Mr. Osburn was away from home, but his wife received me hospitably, and was both pleased and anxious when I told her my story.

"Martha must go home at once," she said. "We can not risk the chance that the old man may change his mind. The poor girl suffers greatly through feeling herself shut out from her home. I doubt if she will be any happier there than here, but we could never forgive ourselves if the chance for a reconciliation were lost. Besides, there is another reason." The good woman looked worried. "A man named Easton has been staying about these parts lately, and has done everything possible to engage Martha's interest. He even attends our little meetings, though I hear he sneers at the teaching when he is with the worldly. So far as I can learn, Martha has accepted no attention from him, but he visits much at the school and seems determined to see as much of her as possible. I shall feel better when she is back among her own people. She is too young and too beautiful to be alone."

I was alarmed at once. There could be nothing in common between Martha and this man, yet no one can guess where the heart of an innocent trusting girl will fasten itself. I began to wish, with Mrs. Osburn, that she was back with her own people—that is to say, with Rachel.

Mrs. Osburn insisted that I remain over night. In the morning she would drive Martha home, under my escort. I did not see how even the fastidious Rachel could object to this; and so I stayed.

After supper I went over to the home of Martha's teacher, with whom she lived. Martha herself met me at the door. I think my coming aroused her anxiety, for she at once inquired after her father and Rachel.

"And I am to go—to go home?" she asked, with a pitiful emphasis upon the word. I realised at that moment how bitterly she felt her exile.

"Mrs Osburn will go with you to-morrow," I told her. "Do not feel anxious about your father. Rachel assured me that there is no cause for anxiety. They both need you and want you—that is all."

"Rachel wrote me about the fire," she said. "It was so good of you to save dear old Dolly."

"Oh, that was nothing at all," I said. "Your sister's risk was far greater than mine." Still, it was pleasant to be praised by Martha.

I had hoped a little to find Stephen in Rocksford, but he and Bro. Cady had stopped but for a night, and then had hastened on to

the county-seat of the next county, where they were to hold what was called, in the speech of the brethren, "a meeting of days."

The next day we started for home as soon as it was light. I had just helped Martha, in my awkward fashion, to mount her horse, when Mr. Charles Easton came up.

"Miss Sylvestre!" he exclaimed. "How near I came to letting you get away without a parting word! I am distressed indeed to learn of your father's illness. And how unfortunate that you should be called from your studies just at this time!"

"I am very glad indeed to go home to my father and sister," said Martha, in her sweet, serious way. "I am sure my sister needs me, although she would never say so. I have been away for a long time, and she has had a heavy burden."

I watched her narrowly as she told Charles Easton good-bye. If he was in reality her lover, she seemed entirely unconscious of it. She held out her hand, and he bent over it with what I considered (being myself a backwoods boy) an entirely unnecessary display of gallantry. But Martha, I fancy, would have thought it unwomanly to judge any man her suitor until he had avowed himself such.

"I shall come to see your father as soon as he is sufficiently recovered to receive visitors," he told her. "May I not trust you to let me know when that time comes?"

"You can ask Mrs. Osburn," Martha said, looking into his face with frank simplicity. "She is sure to keep informed of father's condition."

Mr. Easton's jaunty manner seemed to be a trifle subdued by this innocent speech, but he said good-bye with proper grace. Then we rode away, Martha and I to breathe in together the intoxication of nature and the spirit of youth.

Martha Sylvestre was a creature fashioned for happiness. Birds and sunshine belonged within her soul. But her affections dominated her, and failure and loss there meant quick misery. To be loved and to serve those she loved meant not only happiness, but freedom—the power to be herself and to express herself naturally. To-day she was herself, for she was going home.

Good Mrs. Osburn, too, was happy. The thought of Mr. Easton's attentions to Martha had distressed her, and she was glad to turn the girl over to Rachel. For, whatever Rachel's failings might be, she was certainly an irreproachable guardian.

So we made a merry party, and I think even the frisky squirrels may have hastened their steps to listen to our laughter that morning.

Rachel came down the lane to meet us, and Martha slipped from her saddle and threw herself into her sister's arms. I believe I have said somewhere that I am not what is called emotional, but at that moment I felt like a woman, and a hysterical woman at that.

Rachel kissed Martha; then she loosened the girl's arms, and came to where I stood. I was foolishly playing with my horse's bridle, and trying to choke back a lump in my throat.

"Thank you, Joseph," she said. There was the old comradeship of our school days in her voice. I wondered how matters would fare in future with the Sylvestres and the Arrondales.