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Great Words in the Christmas Message.

SOMETIMES we have discussions as to which are the greatest words in the language. We may confidently say that amongst the greatest and dearest are four which are suggested to us in the messages of the angels when they heralded to the shepherds at Bethlehem the advent of the Saviour and sang their praises to God.

Courage.

The first message of the angel to the shepherds was an inspiration to courage. "Fear not." One writer says: "No one was expecting a new era of love and peace to be ushered in. And least of all courage. True, men had known bravery and heedlessness of danger, but courage, ah, that was something different. Its importance was so fundamental to all else that it was the angel's first thought. 'Fear not,' the message rang, 'for behold, I bring you good tidings. . . . Could a people in the dread of a sudden vision be able to receive the good tidings? A voice from the sky, a brilliant burning star, a child born of a virgin, would not all these strike terror in the hearts of the people? And men afraid are separated by barriers too big for thought from the touch of a healing hand. So there was born that magic—Courage. It was part and parcel of the message the Christ child brought to the world."

Joy.

Oh, the happiness of Christmastide! There is no other season of the year at which the note of joy is so sounded forth. It is appropriate that this should be so, for the message of the first Christmas ran, "I bring you good tidings of great joy."

Everybody wants to be happy. We need not be hedonists, believers in the doctrine that happiness is the chief good, the thing which must be our supreme aim, in order to recognise that happiness is one of the legitimate pursuits of life. God wants us to be happy; the Gospel was given to increase our joy. Christ came to give His

disciples joy, and wished that their joy might be full.

But the message of the angels shows how real joy comes to men. The "good tidings of great joy" was a declaration of the birth of the Saviour, Christ the Lord. There is no happiness comparable to the joy of salvation. No other quest of happiness will realise its aim than that of the seeking the service of Christ the Lord who is our Saviour and Redeemer. Let us not attempt to leave Christ out of Christmas festivities.

Peace.

No word has been more prominent during the past year than "peace." Thank God, we have seen some advances in the direction of World Peace since Christmas day of a year ago. Great statesmen and Christian leaders have been working, with some considerable degree of success, in bringing the nations to agreement. The rapprochement between Great Britain and the United States of America has brought joy to many loyal hearts. We thank God for the League of Nations and every convention or conference which tends to knit the peoples of the earth more closely together, which bids us remember the Father-

hood of God and the brotherhood of man. Men should be at peace with God, at peace with other men, and also, by internal harmony and tranquillity, be at peace with themselves. Such a peace can only come from Christ. Peace is the fruit of the Gospel in every soul that receives it. We should work and pray for the day

"When Peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendor fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing."

Goodwill.

As we review the condition of our own beloved land, we think that the word "goodwill" expresses one of its very greatest needs. There is deplorable division in the world. But the situation is intensified when distrust, suspicion, even malice and hate, are manifested, as alas, they frequently are. We have political parties which are not only separated but alienated by manifestation of a bitter and hateful spirit. Employer and employee—these are in different camps; but the chief trouble is that enmity and distrust are rampant. There are people who seem to make it the business of their life to stir up trouble and keep people from working in peace and amity. The world was shocked recently to read of an agent being appointed by great shipbuilding companies to watch their interests, even to the extent of preventing legislation in favor of a reduction of armaments which might lessen the companies' business and profits. It is difficult to imagine anything more diabolical than this. But on a lesser scale the same principle, or want of principle, may be seen in other spheres.

If Christians did nothing else than radiate a spirit of peace and goodwill, the church would much more than justify its existence.

It is well to note that the peace of which the angels sang is a peace among men of goodwill, one which comes to men in whom God is well pleased.

In Christ, it has been said, "are all the

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magics of the world—love, peace, joy, courage. Christmas magic! Think what it would mean if we could all capture the spirit of the angels' message! Merle Crowell, editor of the "American Magazine," closes a seasonal editorial by a word of advice to

his two million readers: "I know people who seem to carry the Christian spirit through the whole year. . . . Am I one of them? Are you? Let's seriously ask ourselves this question before we swing into the New Year."

Remembering.

"Thou shalt remember all the way the Lord thy God led thee." "Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God."—Deut. 8: 3, 18.

The closing days of the year may well be given up largely to reviewing the past and recalling some of its experiences. Is there anything more wonderful in the make-up of human personality than memory? A man wakes up one morning humming a line of a song which he has not sung or heard for sixty years, and before he has finished dressing the whole song has come back. It has been buried somewhere in his mind for considerably more than half a century, but here it is risen from the dead, and the past lives again with it.

The passages above and many others imply that we have power of will over this wonderful faculty. A New Testament writer speaks of people who "willfully forget." We can dismiss a thing from our mind. It is difficult, involving a hard battle with some things, but it can be done, and it must be done here and there if life is not to be spoilt, hindered of its fruitfulness and peace. There is a duty of forgetting. We must resolutely refuse to dwell on certain things that have happened. We must say, "I will not think about them." Wrongs or blights done us. Unkindnesses and neglects, losses and what might have been if they had not befallen us; or our own attainments and achievements. Anything which leads on the one hand to resentment and ill-will, that kindles the unholy fire of hatred and revenge, or on the other to self-complacency and self-congratulation, the putting up against which Paul warns men. In this respect we must school ourselves to "forget the things that are behind." But the benefits of life—the way God has led us—the rock from whence we were hewn and the hole of the pit from whence we were digged, the preventing mercies of God which kept our souls from death and our feet from falling, the escapes and deliverances of life, the waters which broke forth in the wilderness and the springs in the desert, the way marvelously opened up in our extremity, the friends raised up, the provision made for us, how when one thing failed another came, the blessing of work and health, and home and love—these are the things to remember. There is an element of romance in the most ordinary life if we could only see it, enough to awaken wonder and gratitude. And if we could only see it—most wonderful and yet most sure of all there is God, whose wise and loving providence is busy about our individual lives. If our Lord taught any-

thing at all about God, he taught his care for the individual, the remote and obscure individual. The "one lost sheep," one of these little ones, one of the least of these little ones. We may dare to believe that the path of every one of us has been the subject of God's *thought and care*.

That the exhortation and command to remember comes so often in Holy Scripture implies our tendency to forget, to take such things as have been named here, the general blessings of life, as a matter of course, as though they were just fortunate happenings or the result of our own superior shrewdness or merit. This great book of Deuteronomy contains many wise counsels of permanent relevance and value. Again and again comes the warning word, "Beware lest thou forget." "When thou shalt have come into the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, when thou hast eaten and art full and hast built goodly houses and

dwelt therein, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied and all that thou hast is multiplied, then beware lest thine heart be lifted up and thou forget the Lord thy God." It is a permanent peril of human nature. Yielded to it leads to self-sufficiency and pride and hardness of heart, the loss of sweetness and humility and charm and the things most precious and lovely in human character. Perhaps we need the constant reminder that all God's commandments are for our highest good, not for his glory but for our blessing. To forget him is not only incalculable loss; it is immeasurable folly, it means the impoverishment and degradation of life, and it is a serious modern danger. Multitudes of people are dropping prayer and Bible reading, grace before meals and religious exercises out of their lives. Do not be among the number. It requires an effort of will to remember God, to keep him in mind. It is the effort most worth making. It tends to make life sacred, to bring comfort and strength, to keep it pure and on a high level, to make it fruitful in sympathy and loving service, and to keep in the centre of it contentment, gratitude and peace. During the closing days of the year make a serious effort to secure some quiet space to meditate on the wondrous guidance of God. Listen again to this old commandment: "Thou shalt remember all the way the Lord thy God hath led thee."—Dr. Charles Brown.

The Spirit of Christmas.

A. W. Connor.

If Christmas proclaims one thing it is surely this: The basic belief of Christianity is that in the advent of Jesus there was a true incarnation of the divine. John states it for us: "The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Paul's language gets closer to our modern modes of expression: "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be made rich."

So Christmas—the original Christmas—was the act of self-giving for the good of others raised to the highest degree of beauty. So the spirit of Christmas when "true to type" must be that of self-giving. With all the sordidness and selfishness in the world, it is yet true that Christmas helps to keep alive the unselfish and good. The spirit of the season means that we think less of what we are going to get out of life and more of what we are going to put into it for the good of others. Then Christmas is the reminder of the great stoop, "Though he was rich he became poor." Though he "thought it not robbery to claim equality with God," yet "he humbled himself." Of him it is written, "Even Christ pleased not himself." So the spirit of Christmas is the spirit that will enable us to stoop and consider the needs of others. The spirit of comradeship and helpfulness; the desires

and needs of the children of misfortune; the loneliness that comes with old age; these are the things that must be considered if we would "keep Christmas" and keep it "true to type."

While men sow the dragon's teeth of hate and mistrust, we must sow seeds of love and goodwill. What we seek for between individuals we must aim for in the international realm, and private people, pulpit and press must combine to banish racial ignorance and hatred.

The believer in the gospel cannot hold his mind to the manger-cradle alone. He goes on to the crown of that self-giving. "The Son of man came to give his life a ransom for many." The Christmas spirit is "not to be served" but "to serve and give." The first Christmas tree was that on which the Lord of glory—God's unspeakable gift to the world—hung. So the Christmas spirit will prompt gifts of substance to the needy of earth. "Inasmuch as ye did to one of the least of these," should mean much more to us. Gifts of service in which there is the warm personal element which makes life bright and happy. What an asset the Christmas spirit is! May Christmas be for all a really happy one. It will be if we manifest the Christmas spirit of love, goodwill and unselfishness.

Does God Care?

Stuart Stevens.

"He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father?"
—John 14: 9.

"He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father"; this was Christ's answer to Philip's request, "Show us the Father." The request was not prompted by mere frivolity or empty curiosity; it was a sincere expression of the deepest longing of a human heart, and this reverent curiosity is instinctive. In all ages the yearning heathen has sought for an expression of the divine. This longing invests the rudest idolatry with pathos. Indeed, every form of idolatry is an expression of the hunger of the human soul for a God whom it can see and know. Things visible in the mighty and radiant universe, of which we form a part, declare his eternal power and Godhead. But the human heart wants God brought near to it as a living, loving personality. Christ meets this need, and in all his works and words he is the perfect and complete revelation of God. Christ is not only a great historic personality, but also a revelation; for he is God in all the totality of his being—clear, visible, simple and intelligible. John, speaking of him, says: "The word was made flesh and dwelt among us." Every man who has added anything to the general fund of truth has been a word of God. Galileo was God's word of Science; Luther was God's word of Religion; but Christ was the Word: the full and complete thought of God.

Christ tells us that God is our Father. A thousand images, sublime, terrible, majestic, bring home to us the conception of the justice, wisdom and majesty of God's Fatherhood. This revelation of the divine Fatherhood suggests that God is no longer a cold, distant creator. He is a close, personal presence, warm and tender. When Christ said: "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father," he meant us to understand how Fatherhood feels. Men had thought of God as never knowing pain, and have shrunk from the idea of infinite perfection suffering. The defect of this philosophy is that it overlooks the fact that sensibility to suffering is an essential quality of a perfect personality. Jesus could not have been perfect without sympathy, and he could not have sympathy without sensibility to suffering.

Christ has shown us that God's Fatherhood means an infinite capacity for love, which is never self-sufficient. Love seeks recognition, appreciation, response; and when it is refused love is pained. To regard God as absolutely self-satisfied and in need of nothing is to miss the infinite passion of desire, as the gospel reveals it, rooting in the heart of the eternal. When a son falls into some grievous error or discredits himself, who suffers the greater mental anguish—the son or the father? The sympathy and suffering of Jesus Christ

is part of the revelation of God, and this is a comforting truth to a broken-hearted world.

There are certain philosophers who deny sin any place in the world, and what the word of God calls sin they call error, accident, inexperienced imperfection. But sin is a stern reality. Sin blunts the wit, corrodes the affection, saps the Empire, destroys civilisation; its paramount condemnation, however, is that it bereaves the human spirit of God for whom it instinctively craves. In the presence of all this sin and suffering, the question that presents itself to us is: Does God care? If he does, what is his attitude towards individual human suffering? When we think of the millions that suffer, it does not seem creditable that God can care for each one separately. To mere power, we might be unconsidered dust motes driven here and there by chance winds, but to God, who is our Father, we are objects of divine care and concern.

God is not the author of suffering any more than he is the author of sin. He can take the suffering of mind and body, however, and make it the instrument for the full and final perfecting of human character. Many of the most priceless things of life have come to us through the ministry

of suffering. It is a clumsy mistake to speak of the Christian religion as a religion of sorrow; it is a religion for sorrow. Because God suffers he sympathises, and because he sympathises, he succours. A suffering God is the last appeal of the divine to the human. We see this in the cross. God could have given proof of his love in many ways. He could, for instance, have written it in letters of fire across the sky, but this would have cost him nothing. "But God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall have everlasting life."

It is quite conceivable that the suffering of the Father was more poignant than that of the Son. Our sin is God's sorrow; not only because it clashes with the moral order of the world, but because it degrades and destroys the soul of his children. Yes! God does care. His love for us is as wide as the heavens, and as deep as the sea. We are the objects of his vigilance night and day. Indeed, God's care for us is the ground for our hope. It is only through the medium of Christ's person that we can understand the tenderness of the Father. To the august conception of divine sovereignty and holiness has been added the tender pity and tearful sympathy of Jesus, and thus we find the loving heavenly Father in the divine Son. The answer to the question, "Does God care for the broken-hearted world?" is the Father's gift to us of his Son, and the Son's gift to us of himself. "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father."

Christmas Morning.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great Joy,
Which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the City of
David a Saviour,
Which is Christ the Lord.

—Luke 2: 10, 11.

I ask you for a moment or two to stand with me on this Christmas morning beside the cradle of our Lord, in the manger at Bethlehem, and catch something of what we there may learn. Some of you are poor. How glad for you, beyond all utterance, should be the meaning of Christmas! Your Lord was, as you are, poor—as poor as any of you! Look at your own little children with love and reverence, for he, too, was the child of the poor. Try to make them sweet, and pure, and unselfish like him.

And some are rich. Oh! come ye also to the manger-cradle of your Lord, for rich men did come, both to his cradle and to his tomb. They came as the rich should come, with gifts. And, first of all, they gave, as we all may and must give, themselves—the gold of worthy lives, the frankincense of holy worship, the myrrh of consecrated sorrow.

But, if some are poor and some are rich,

many are sorrowful. Come ye also to the cradle of your Lord, for you need it most. Are you sorrowful? So was he; "exceeding sorrowful even unto death."

But, lastly, if some of you are rich and some of you are poor, and many are sorrowful, all, all of you are sinners; and to you the news of that birth is, indeed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Let us stand, high and low, rich and poor, sinful or sorrowful, one with another, common brothers equally guilty, equally redeemed, by the cradle of the Infant King, that in his light we may see light, and may leave that cradle more wise and hopeful, more cheerful and undaunted, more pure and loving.—F. W. Farrar.

"To know the Christ of God
The Everlasting Son;
To know what he can earth
For guilty men has done;
This is the first and best
Of all that's true and woe;
The child that contains all light
Beneath above the skies."

—Honor.

Carols of Old Christmas.

Songs of Joy and Praise.

David Plummer.

No festival of the year has been more prolific of special music than Christmas. To the younger children the Yule-tide is an occasion for receiving gifts from friends, and adults enjoy the opportunities for family reunions, while the sacred associations of the day have their call. In ancient days a special occasion such as this demanded some work of poetic inspiration which should chant the praise and purpose of the occasion, and Christmas naturally called forth the very best of such efforts. Then the simple surroundings and the humble circumstances of the Nativity have especially appealed to poetic natures, resulting in numberless plain and simple attempts at Christmas carols.

There are, thus, three prime reasons for the existence of these happy pieces of music—the charity of Christmas time, the general goodwill and feasting of the occasion; and the general desire for rhythmic description of this great event in human history. According to these three reasons may all Christmas carols be classified.

As a good example of the festive carol "Here we come a-wassailing" may be quoted. The directness with which material and mental prosperity are connected in this stanza is typical of these ballads.

Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green;
Here we come a-singing
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail bow,
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.

In older and colder lands Christmas Eve was, and often still is, spent by carol singers in tramping ice-bound ways and frosty woodlands, occasionally striking up their old melodies. These sang of the heavenly birth and earth's joys and comforts in an impartial interchange. Heavily welcomed awaited the singers at houses and farmsteads, whose occupants sat up in impatient anticipation. Towns and cities also had their waits, who visited them with untiring regularity. Luther has left it on record that "at the time that the festival of Christ's birth was celebrated, we went from house to house, and village to village, singing popular Christmas carols in four-part harmony." In Australia this good old custom seems to have gone the way of many others, and carol-singers are rarely met with.

One of the better known of the carols is "Good King Wenceslas." This was originally a spring-time carol of the thirteenth century, being sung to Latin words, but in the nineteenth century Neale adapted the tune to the words as we know them now.

Good King Wenceslas went out,
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp, and even,
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

"Hither page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
"Sure, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine-trees hither;
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we hear them thrither."
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

"Sure, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger,
Falls my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, good my page,
Tread them in their boldy;
Thou shalt find the winter's rage,
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay drifted,
Heat was in the very sod,
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

This comes, as may easily be seen, under our first heading, as demonstrating the charity of Christmas time.

A good example of the descriptive carol is "The First Nowell." This deals with its subject more directly, really consisting of a brief history, in poetic form, of the Nativity.

The First Nowell the Angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the East, beyond them afar,

Religious Notes and News.

WARNING FOR MOTORISTS.

An "Alcohol Warning for Motor Drivers" has been issued by the Berlin police authorities. The first three of its eight points run: (1) The arduous and responsible calling of the motor driver makes it necessary for him to abstain completely from all alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits, etc.) both before and during his work. (2) The smallest quantities of alcohol are injurious to the motor driver. It is a widespread error that small quantities have no deleterious effect. On the contrary, they cause at first an increase of self-confidence, followed by premature fatigue, and thus weaken his capacity for swift discrimination and reaction in the presence of danger. (3) A large proportion of motor accidents are due to the consumption of quite small quantities of alcohol.

UNORTHODOX FRENCH PREACHERS.

Strange things are happening at the greatest of French Cathedrals, Notre Dame de Paris, says the "Christian World." The famous preacher, Pere Sanson, was expelled from his pulpit for delivering sermons whose boldness shocked the

And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night,
And by the light of that same Star,
Three Wisemen came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the Star wherever it went,
This Star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay,
Then entered in those Wisemen three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense,
Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

A large sub-division of the descriptive carols might be devoted to those which have their origin in Mariolatry. Old references in apocryphal books speak of Mary, the mother of Jesus, performing miracles. Among these was an occasion when an old woman sought her aid—"Then our Lady Mary said unto her, Lay thine hands upon the infant, which when she had done, she became whole." From accounts of such incidents the first of these carols drew their legendary. In the twelfth century plays were enacted in honor of the Virgin, and poets, painters and musicians delighted to do homage to the mother of Christ. Many carols have been written in her praise, and the first stanza of perhaps the best known is—

A Virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell,
Hath brought forth a baby, as it hath befell;
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,
Which Adam's transgression had wrapped up in.

Chorus:

Aye and therefore be you merry,
Rejoice and be you merry,
Set sorrows aside,
Christ Jesus our Saviour is born on this tide.

Carols are, to quote one authority, "living history and an efficient arm of the service to Christianity itself." Because of the simplicity and directness of their words and the sweetness of their melody they can carry home the truth better, at times, than the best of discourses.

From the Anglican hymn which had its origin in the carol of the shepherds an endless strain of poetry and music has sprung up.

Roman Catholic authorities. Regardless of Pere Sanson's fate, another daring preacher has defied the traditions of his church. The new preacher who is flustering the Roman doctores is Pere Pinard de la Boulaye.

U.C.M.S. WORK.

The United Christian Missionary Society of the American Churches of Christ is at work in Africa, the Argentine, Paraguay, India, China, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Porto Rico and Tibet. During the past year there were 5,329 baptisms, and the total membership is 49,229. There are many other churches in these and other countries, not listed as they are not being assisted by the U.C.M.S.

A NEW BOOK ON PENTECOST.

Brother Francis Asa White has gotten out a new book entitled "God's Great Gift, the Holy Spirit" (writes Dr. F. D. Kershner in the "Christ-Spirit") (writes Dr. F. D. Kershner in the "Christ-Spirit"). It is designed to mark the Nineteenth Hundredth Anniversary of Pentecost, and is an excellent volume to present to any brother who avails that the dis-

ciples do not believe in the Holy Spirit. Certainly no work upon the subject is more positive in its character or more clear in its presentation. The book is built upon the careful induction of the Scriptural passages which deal with the question as interpreted through the ripe Christian experience and devotion of the author. It would be a good thing if members of all churches throughout the land would read and study this little treatise during the coming year. It is published by the Evangelical Publishing Company of Harrisburg, Pa., and the price is one dollar.

IN BRIGANDS' HANDS.

As far as is known, Mr. D. F. Pike, we regret to state, is still in the hands of the brigands. A message reached us from the Commonwealth Government that efforts were being made by the British authorities to secure his release, but so far no word has come informing us of this having taken place. In the same Province of Kwelhow, the C.M. Superintendent, Mr. Cecil Smith, was also taken captive by brigands. After about a week's captivity, through the kind efforts of a German doctor, he was released.—"China's Millions" for Dec. 1.

THAT NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

As announced the brother who was appointed President of the U.S.A. at our Seattle Convention, U.S.A. Later declined to accept the position. He had not given his consent prior to nomination. In the "Christian Evangelist" Dr. F. D. Kershner has the following pertinent paragraph:—

Our sympathies go out to the nominating committee of the Seattle Convention. After so many hours of vigil, confabulation and vigorous debate, it is tragic in the extreme to recount the fact that so much labor has been expended in vain. Of what avail was it for the brethren who constituted this committee to abstain from the deliberations of the convention or the useless diverting of the hands of fellowship in the corridors. We greatly fear lest future nominating committees will be prone to work less diligently at the job, than was the case with their distinguished forebears at Seattle. Indeed, we should not hesitate to prophesy that the next man who is elected as president of the United Christian Missionary Society will be laid low, of, corralled, imprisoned and brought into the presence of the committee and compelled to sign a statement in seventeen different languages. That, if chosen, he will accept the position. Brethren who belong to such a free and independent communion as ours are not going to permit themselves to be confined for hours in a stuffy room at a national convention without purpose. There is peculiar pathos in the convention speeches of members of the Seattle committee in support of the nominee selected as we read them to-day. "Why should so much good effort be wasted?" was one of the chief notes in the arguments previously. Why, indeed? If anyone can answer this all-important question, we shall be glad to nominate him for a place on the nominating committee of the next convention.

INSTITUTIONS OBSCURING THE TEACHING OF CHRIST.

In an article dealing with "The Crisis in Organized Religion," Mr. Gilbert Thomas writes as follows: "What honest observer, whether in the churches or outside, can deny that, whether the misrepresentation has been accidental or deliberate, the real spirit and teaching of Christ himself have similarly been too often obscured by the institutions existing in his name? The early church, freshly under the influence of his earthly presence, reflected vitally the spirit of Jesus. But, as that direct influence faded, the church began to "add" and dilute his message, which was at first so simple and too difficult for it to grasp and to practise. So the church became the churches, torn asunder by different interpretations and traditions, and at last embracing themselves in the name of him who was called the Prince of Peace and who took as his favorite symbol the simplicity of a little child in some of the worst wars and persecutions in history."

Following the Star.

Jan. E. Thomas.

There are two records of the birth of our Lord, and they are strikingly different. One is the story of the shepherds, who were the honored recipients of the angel's message, and the other is that of the wise men who came from afar and offered the homage of gifts to the babe of Bethlehem.

There is one thing common to both stories. Each followed the light that they had. To the shepherds the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and the angels sang their glad song of peace. It did not seem a very difficult thing for these men of simple faith to find their way to the manger cradle, and there make adoration to the Saviour of the world. They had no costly gifts to offer, but they gave what all may give, the praise and thanksgiving of glad and grateful hearts. We do not suggest that there is any greater virtue in the conduct of the wise men, but these two classes of people that found their common ground in worship at the cradle of Christ are typical of the innumerable host who, in all the centuries since, have been finding their constant joy at the cradle and the cross. The shepherds were close at hand, and it did not take much seeking for knowledge or searching

to come with healing in his wings. They believed that the God of the heavens and the earth was not going to leave his people to an age-long disappointment. Some day the star would appear. This day had come, and now they would seek and find the meaning of all that God had brought to man. This star is the symbol of light to us all. We must be willing to follow the light God gives us, and believe implicitly that if we follow it he will bring us at last to where we, too, shall see the King.

The Knowledge They Had Led These Men to Action.

Faith is the acceptance of what the light of God reveals to us. It is the willingness to receive the unfailing testimony of God's Holy Word. But faith is not a passive thing. It is the prompter to our deeds of love. Real faith always finds expression in the adventures of life. These men could not remain in the East. They must find where Christ was, and offer to him the very best they had, kneeling did not state the spiritual meaning of Christmas when he said,

"For East is East, and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet."

Faith and love bring the wise men and the shepherds to the same common ground. East and West meet at the cradle and the cross, and will meet Christ in the glory. Faith expressed makes us one in a glad, holy, living and loving service. These men came to where the young child was. Ought we not ask our hearts each Christmas how far have we knowledge and faith brought me along the shining way? Are we really following the star?

The Star Did Not Set.

The men returned to their home, but left a new meaning for them now. It was illuminated like the life of the shepherds with the light of the love of God. They had learned some new things about God. They had seen the star for themselves. It told of the unfailing promises of a real God. They did not live in the mystic lore of Chaldean worshippers after that. They knew there was One who was over-riding in this great world, who would never go back on his word. In the fulness of time his Son had come to brighten human life and to save men from their sin. They knew that this God really cared for men and had sent his Son, the expression of that infinite care and love. They did not as yet know all that we now know of the greater wonder and love of Calvary. May be some of them hoped to know of that as well. But this star gave them hope. It was the promise of the future as well as the fulfillment of the past. So we may learn at Christmas from the manger, and at Easter from the cross, that God is still working out for our eternal welfare his own loving purposes to Christ our Lord. We have not yet seen him except in simple faith, but some day we will see him. We do not know all things yet. The condition of this world may perplex us, but the same God is still reigning. The star is still shining. Let us rejoice in the Christ we know and love, whom we remember at this glad Christmas time; and to them that look for him he shall appear the second time apart from sin unto salvation. With all the pessimism of materialism, and the difficulties of the way, we can still look to the star of hope, and remember that Christ died, Christ lives, and Christ will be ever reign.

"For lo, the days are hastening on by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-existing years shall come the time foretold.

When the new heaven and earth shall own the Prince of Peace as King,
And the whole world send back the song that now the ransomed sing."

CHRIST IN THE HEART.

"'Tis not enough that Christ was born
Beneath the star that shone,
And earth was set that morn
Within a golden zone.
He must be born within the heart
Before he finds his throne.
And when the way of love and good
The reign of Christ-like brotherhood."

for the way. So it is with many of us. We have heard the story of this wonderful Saviour ever since we knew anything. It may become so commonplace that we lose the real meaning of Christmas time. Let us never fail to make our glad response and come with renewed and glad surrender to the manger-throne and offer the worship of hearts that know the real joy of the inner meaning of this wondrous birthday of our Lord.

If we look again at the story of the wise men we find in all their adoration and joy the result of much study and searching. We scarcely know who they were, for they came so suddenly and dramatically into the story, and then departed just as rapidly and were apparently seen no more in Bethlehem. Tradition tells us how many there were, and many interesting stories are woven around these ancient seers of the East, but the Scriptures give us no definite word as to their names or number. God does not satisfy the constant curiosity of men. He simply gives us a wonderful story of men who believed in the star and followed it, and who are even today a challenge to us that we may have the same diligent faith.

These Men Made the Best of What They Knew.

There was in the world a growing expectancy, so historians tell us. There seemed to be a feeling that had taken possession of these students of prophecy that something was going to happen. They believed in the promise of Jehovah, and were Isaac Simon, looking for the consolation of Israel. It does not appear that they were men of Israel. They were the first-fruits of the Gentiles, Jews. They were all the more wonderful to Matthew as the Holy Spirit led him to record it. These were probably from the land of Abraham, and worshippers like the Chaldeans of the star and stars. But they had learned of One who was

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. PITTMAN

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

Like echo from some distant chime
That sweetly throbs the air,
Floats down the corridor of time,
The witness of a thought sublime
That God is everywhere.

Not only in the realms of light,
Where saints immortal dwell,
But even in this dark world's night,
And in the fight 'twixt wrong and right
All things shall yet be well.

I may not see the form of God,
Nor hear the voice Divine,
But well I know he hears the loud
That once oppressed me on the road.
I know 'tis his, not mine.

For Christ, the Lord of heavenly birth,
Proclaimed in angel song,
For loss and we gives joy and birth,
And reigus the Prince of Peace on earth,
The Righter of all wrong.

—T. H. Smealon.

THE WONDERFUL RUMOR.

Of all the meanings of Christmas, the best is this—it rumors abroad that God is in the world. Long ago, how long we know not, men whispered to one another that the universe was not empty, and came to believe it was inhabited by a Great Spirit. In that long ago religion was born. This wonderful rumor has stayed with men; it is always arising, whatever the darkness in his lot that may deny it. A star breaks through the cloud, or from some human deed gleams the imprisoned splendour, and once again it is noised abroad that the unseen God is in his house. It is a rumor never silenced.

Just over nineteen hundred years ago it was rumored that he had come in the form of a little child. "The angel began it, and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, shouting and praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest.'" A strange rumor, that affected wise men in the Orient and Herod on his throne. When the child had grown to manhood it was soon noised abroad whenever he came into a town. Peter's house in Capernaum was an ordinary fisherman's dwelling, there was nothing to distinguish it from any other, but once when Jesus was there every road led to that humble abode. He could not be hid. He drew men or he challenged them, but of his presence they were always aware. And as the centuries went by that rumor spread across the world.

God With Us.

Thus it happens, in our human story, that every December earth hears anew that he is in our midst. Men watch us, in the East find their hearts kindling, before the stars die out and with the sun the news travels over land and sea. It knocks at the windows of sleepers in the wintry north, and is remembered when the light awakens those who sleep out of doors in the genial south, unless indeed the carol singers have earlier reminded us of it. In the days of the year through the dawn God overflows the world. Everywhere it is noised abroad that he is in his house. We remember the birthdays of men but a little while. Caesar's and Napoleon's are soon forgotten, except to the few who are influenced by them. Shakespeare's and Milton's are not mentioned more than once in a century. For many the rumor of their greatness is long stifled. But every year the world visits the House of Bethlehem. Was it a stable or a cave? It matters not.

There fared a mother driven forth
Out of an inn to roam;
In the place where she was homeless
All men are at home.
The crazy slashes close at hand,
With shaking timber and shifting sand
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
Than the square stones of home.

Why? Because there men saw the light of the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ, and from thence the wonderful rumor went forth that God was with man.

The Spreading Spirit.

We live in days of uncertainty and alarm; there is much that contradicts this divine rumor, but there is also, happily, much that confirms it. When the Germans were besieging Paris in 1870 a French soldier asked permission to leave the city. He went out across the crunching snow, and when while hearing of the German sentries began to sing, "Noel, Noel, Christ is the King of Israel." After he had finished, a soldier from the opposing camp sang his version of the carol. Not a rifle cracked to spoil the beauty of the song. During the Great War we heard how men fraternized with their enemies on Christmas Day, until ordered not to do so. The rumor sprang up in the conference on peace in industry. The League of Nations spreads it every week. In all co-operative measures in humanitarian impulses, in the growing spirit of brotherhood, it is heard. There is a spirit in man's life, moving through all his activities, noising abroad that God is in the world.

On Christmas Day we rise nearer the spirit of the divine love. Joy and sorrow shake hands, our antipathies are dimmed; we cannot spare our this day. Rather we must make its meaning supreme through all the other days of the year. We are pledged to an undying dream; so to live that it will be rumored abroad, and revealed, that Christ is in every land, because he is in our own country, our own city, our own street, our own house, and, first of all, our own heart.
—Dr. G. H. Wright.

GOD'S LOVE.

"Love is like the ocean,
Fathomless and broad,
Flowing to the humblest
From the heart of God
Batting in his bosom."
Millions have been blessed—
What a world, if God's sweet love
Filled every human breast!

Build on resolve, and not upon regret,
The structure of thy future. Do not grope
Among the shadows of old sin, but let
Thine own soul's light shine on the path of hope
And dispel the darkness. Waste no tears
Upon the blotted record of lost years,
But turn the leaf, and smile, Oh, smile, to see,
The fair white pages that remain to thee.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

SAFETY FIRST.

An old country woman went into a bank, threw down her deposit book, and said she wished to draw out all her money. It was given her, and she retired to a bench and counted it.
Then she went back to the counter.
"Ay, that'll do, my bank," she said to the cashier, "Just put it back again. I only wanted to see if it was all right."

The Family Altar.

—I.C.F.P.—

Monday.

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.—Hab. 3: 18.

No loftier heights of holy confidence could be reached than this. It illustrates the power of true godliness. It supposes the complete failure of all that man usually relies on; and the contemplation thereof with exultant joy, because of the unseen help of God.
Reading—Habakkuk 3.

Tuesday.

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save; he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love; he will joy over thee with singing.—Zeph. 3: 17.

God, the Almighty, is here represented in a wonderful light; rejoicing over his people, resting in his love for them, and even singing over them out of the fullness of his heart's joy! Well may we trust him.
Reading—Zeph. 3: 9-20.

Wednesday.

Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work; for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts.—Haggai 2: 4.

There are great discouragements in the work of the Lord, but strength is given to those who "work" with a will. Discouragements turn to incentives to renewed effort with the Lord present to help.
Reading—Haggai 1: 1-2; 2.

Thursday.

Then he answered and said unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. 4: 6.

This is the chief lesson all have to learn who work for God in the building up of Zion. It is God, by his Spirit, who worketh in us, and with us, to will and to do his good pleasure, and no power can stand against him.
Reading—Zech. 3-4.

Friday.

And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.—Zech. 8: 3.

The important matter is not the restoration to Jerusalem, but the return to God "in truth and in righteousness." So in all such predictions.
Reading—Zechariah 8.

Saturday.

And the Lord said unto me, Cast H into the potter; a goodly price that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.—Zech. 11: 13.

In Matt. 27: 9 this is treated as a prediction of the act of Judas in selling Christ. Probably by an error of transcription the words are said to be those of Jeremiah instead of Zechariah. The record is wonderfully true in the betrayal.
Reading—Zech. 9: 9-10; 12.

Sunday.

And the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one Lord, and his name one.—Zech. 14: 9.

"The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice,
O earth, and all ye heavens rejoice—
From world to world the joy shall ring—
The Lord omnipotent is King."
Reading—Zech. 14: 4-11, 16-21.

Readings for week following.—Dec. 30, Mal. 1: 1-2; 7; Dec. 31, Mal. 3: 4; Jan. 1, Luke 1: 1-25; Jan. 2, Luke 1: 26-56; Jan. 3, Luke 1: 57-80; Jan. 4, Luke 2: 1-24; Jan. 5, Luke 2: 25-52.

Prayer Meeting Topic.

January 1.

WHEN AN OFFICIAL RAS.

(Luke 19: 1-10.)

W. Waterman.

"And Jesus" or so way his intention "entered and passed through Jericho." He was hurrying to Jerusalem to die a week hence he would be in his tomb. "And, behold," quite unexpectedly, "a man was there" to interrupt his journey—"Zacchaeus," chief among the publicans, and a tax collector. Being a chief publican, and rich, he was, in the eyes of his fellow Jews, an aristocrat and a chief of sinners, one, as they judged, who had fattened on their blood. But in this last he was misjudged, for even fourfold his extortion, deducted later from half his fortune, did not impoverish him. Even so he was an outsider.

His story here again unfolds these truths:

First, that there are spiritual yearnings in hearts in which the world and the church would least expect them. Zacchaeus, we read, "sought to see Jesus who he was." At most, that was his interest in Jesus, as he or Luke, stated it. But men are given to understanding their interest in spiritual matters. They come to church (they say) "to hear the preacher," or "with a friend"; and not (so far as they confess) because they feel the yearnings of sinners for a Saviour. However, as we shall find with Zacchaeus, their yearnings, once discovered, are more than curiosity.

Second, that men, even worthlings, overwhelmed by such yearnings, can quite forget their conventions. As for Zacchaeus, he sought to see Jesus, and could not for the press, because he was little of stature; and (quite forgetting his dignity) he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, far he was to pass that way. If our own low spiritual stature, "the press" of our own enemies, associates, friends or relatives, prevent us, too, from seeing our Saviour, we also need to forget our self-importance—to cut and run—if we would save our souls.

Third, that men may rejoice in so "forgetting themselves"; for this is a sign that Christ is quick to reach. "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus." Christ doubtless marked the rough behaviour of the crowd when it detected this man, and comprehended his manoeuvre. He met the publican's harassed eyes, saw more clearly the man himself the desires of his heart, and awakened him with "Zacchaeus!" So readily can Christ read our hearts.

Fourth, that Christ will brave any trouble and suffering to meet such signs—to consummate them. Although he was hastening "steadfastly towards Jerusalem," to help this outcast he stayed his plans; "Zacchaeus, today I must tarry with thee." And in this house, "too into which not a beggar would enter without qualms. And despite the murmuring crowd exhorting; me to my judgment and death. Indeed, Christ came to earth to give his life a ransom for many.

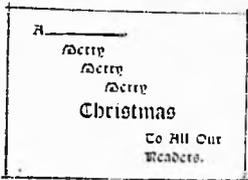
Fifth, that such is his kindness that it will enable any contrite heart to break his bonds. Zacchaeus hitherto had made money his idol—had placed it before his country and his honor. Yet the loving interest of his Saviour compelled him to break his god at Christ's feet: "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and any thing taken from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

And last, that Christ confirms such a sacrifice as useful. Formally to accept Zacchaeus' vow, and to confirm it, "Jesus said unto him, This day 'salvation' came to this house"; and why not? "for he also is a son of Abraham." (Christ took much of gold from this man; but all he took was as nothing to what he gave, the treasure inconvertible.

TOPIC FOR JANUARY 20.—AFTER THE DAYS OF GRACE.—Luke 19: 11-24.

Our Young People.

Conducted by WM. GALE.



YOUNG PEOPLE ENLIST FOR TRAINING IN LEADERSHIP AT GIEBING SUMMER CAMP CONFERENCE.

The enrolment for the Summer Camp Conference at Giebing was completed before the closing date had arrived. This is a most healthy sign for the future of the work amongst our young people in Victoria. The camp is being conducted by the Victorian Bible School and Young People's Department. Mr. H. J. Patterson, M.A., assistant secretary of the department, has accepted the duties of camp director. The following daily time-table indicates that the campers are to give serious attention to subjects calculated to assist in the development of leadership—

- 6.30 a.m.—Rising Bell.
- 7.30 a.m.—Breakfast.
- 8.20 a.m.—"Principles of Teaching," H. J. Patterson, M.A.; "The Restoration Movement," D. Wakeley.
- 9.5 a.m.—"Youth Leadership," Wm. Gale; "Kindergarten Principles," Miss Preston, T.Dip.Ed.M.
- 9.15 a.m.—Recess, fifteen minutes.
- 10 a.m.—Bible Study, for all students.
- 10.10 a.m.—"Foreign Missions," H. E. Coventry; "Christian Home" (Ladies), Mrs. D. Wakeley.
- 11.25 a.m.—"Home Missions," Wm. Gale; "Principles of Recreation," Geo. Hughes.
- 12.30 p.m.—Dinner.
- 2 p.m.—Programme arranged.
- 6 p.m.—Tea.
- 6.30 p.m.—Competitive Outdoor Sports.
- 8 p.m.—Devotional.
- 9 p.m.—Physical Exercises and Stunt Songs.
- 10.30 p.m.—Lights Out.

Every morning is given to the study exercises:



"Silver Bell."

An item rendered by scholars of the new Bible School at Pimping, Vic., at their week-long celebration.

each afternoon to outings; this year services will be held in camp on the Lord's day.

Students to Travel Hundreds of Miles.

Campers have enrolled from ten churches, scattered all over Victoria. Some will journey from the northern and western borders of the State, in one case travelling about 320 miles and in another over 400 miles. The students comprise leaders in all departments of youth work—Phillets and other girls' club leaders, Bible School secretary, many teachers, kindergarten superintendent and helpers, C.E. leaders, R.S.P. leaders, and the conductor of a correspondence Bible School. This should prove a most delightful company for study and social intercourse. The department is looking to these young men and women to assist later in the solution of many of our youth problems, and in their day to assist in the winning and holding for the kingdom of God of our splendid young people.—W.A.

DOINGS IN N.S.W. BIBLE SCHOOLS.

Mosman.—Twenty-first anniversary celebrated. Bro. Syd. Gole, one of the founders of the school in 1908 (the other being Bro. Bert Oldfield, now defunct), spoke concerning the opening service, at which nine were present. Two of these scholars are now teachers.

South Kensington.—On Dec. 1 a "youth" service was held in the evening. Over 100 scholars, attended by their teachers, were present.

Tempe.—At B.S. anniversary celebrations on Dec. 1 a programme was rendered by Wentworth-ave. Chinese school. Enrolment at Tempe is 150.

VICTORIAN YOUNG WORSHIPERS' LEAGUES.

Mr. A. J. Fisher, of 12 Ashling-st., Preston, N.18, preacher of the Preston Church of Christ and member of the Bible School and Young People's Department, is representing the Young Worshipers' Leagues on the Department. He is anxious to communicate with all Victorian Leagues. To do this he requires the address of the League superintendent and the number on the roll. Please send in promptly.

NEW SOUTH WALES K.S.P. AND P.B.P.

Admiral P.B.P.—At special church services the State Serle spoke. Social evening and gifts for aborigine children arranged recently.

Marricksville P.B.P.—Average attendance 25. Concert proceeds 19 divided between Children's Home and B.S. picnic fund. Donation of \$1 by gift to piano fund. One girl decided for Christ. Lidcombe P.B.P.—15 enrolled, and others to be initiated. Talent system adopted, and fancy work being done.

Canley Vale P.B.P.—Two of the girls decided for Christ during the month.

Canley Vale K.S.P.—20 Kappas enrolled, and active in Bible School and church work. Two Kappas made the "good confession."

Ashura K.S.P.—Initiated three candidates. Almost all the club are in church membership. Morning services, Dec. 1, was conducted by Kappas. Upping K.S.P.—Kappas combined with C.E. in providing a table for church and general purposes.

Erskineville K.S.P.—Enrolment grown from 14 to 21. Full attendance at church services. One addition to church from K.S.P.

Marricksville K.S.P.—Kappas conduct mid-week service once each month. All Kappas are now church members.

South Kensington K.S.P.—Six have been initiated; membership now 21. Mr. C. B. Burden now vice-chancellor.

Foreign Missions.

Conducted by G. T. WALDEN, M.A.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

TO THE ONE TO WHOM these presents shall come. We, the Members of the Australian Churches of Christ Foreign Mission Board

SEND GREETING.

WHEREAS in the past the most friendly relations have existed between us AND it is our earnest desire that the same shall remain and be continued for all time. We rejoice with you in the success that has attended your life, and we sympathize with you in any adversity that you have had to endure. We pray daily for God's richest blessing to rest upon you and yours, who have contributed of your means to minister to the Christless in the Regions Beyond. NOW THEREFORE we do by these presents Grant and CONVEY to you and yours all the HEARTFEST GOODWILL possible at this Christmas Season, to the full intent and purpose that you shall have, possess and enjoy the same forever.

IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seal this nineteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

SIGNED, sealed and delivered by the said Board through its Secretary, G. T. Walden.

MR. CLIFF KILLMER, B.A.

We offer sincere congratulations to Mr. Cliff Killmer, who received his degree of Bachelor of Arts at the Adelaide University last week. Bro. Killmer was one of our most promising candidates, and very anxious to follow the footsteps of his brother, Ray, and qualify as a medical missionary. Unfortunately he was prevented from carrying out this desire. So after graduating from the Bible College he took up evangelistic work in South Australia and continued his studies in the Adelaide University. He is now laboring with great acceptance and success at Murray Bridge, S.A.

THE WEST CHINA MISSION.

Grasping the Opportunity.

There has been some slight controversy in respect of the re-entry of our missionaries into this field. Many devoted people have urged this course, and others equally concerned have wondered whether it is possible, in view of the needs of other existing work which is worthy of greater development. Some of the States, too, are finding it difficult to gather the usual revenue owing to economic pressure in the homeland. However, the openings are so wonderful that as long as the missionary enterprise is presented with zeal and determination, there will always be the need for co-ordinated publicity to get results.

The anticipated revenue for the year is allocated, and a sum of new money (\$1,500) is at once necessary to re-open the China territory for one year. The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof, and there are sufficient consecrated members to give the money required, if the need is brought to them.

In the face of the problem the words of G. G. Findlay come to one's mind:

"Ah, it was not an easy march, no holiday pageant, the coming of the Son of God into the world, and it will cost the church something more heavily than we dream of, if the work of the Redeemer is to be made effectual, and the travail of his soul satisfied."

The little company of missionaries out West are true to the Australian church, and must not be let down nor can the tens of thousands of indigenous tribes people adjacent to the mission be utterly neglected. People of these

native tribes have been visited by our missionaries and on each occasion they implored the missionaries to remain with them, for they were without hope. The missionaries who were forced home and are now living in congenial surroundings, and with those of the faith and interests, are prepared and eager to go out into the lack of China for the sake of the Gospel.

Christmas Day is almost here, commemorating God's unspeakable gift to us—no, not to us only, but China also. Shall we not have a general gift time for China, in every city, town and village where we are represented, and if we do, the Christmas bells will ring a new message to our hearts.—A. L. Read.

MRS. PETTY, DONCASTER, VICTORIA, AND MRS. GLASTONBURY, HINDMARSH, S.A.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of the above-named sisters in Christ. Mrs. Petty has been greatly and keenly interested and generous in her support of our missionary work, and her family have also helped us most generously. Doncaster church has, from the beginning of our Foreign Missionary work in 1889, been one of our most generous helpers, and Mrs. Petty was in complete sympathy with the Foreign Missionary spirit of the Doncaster church. She was one of the sweet singers of Israel, her husband being leader of the Doncaster choir. She was a very gracious personality, and followed closely in the footsteps of her Master. The Foreign Mission Board extends its sincere sympathy to the members of Mrs. Petty's family.

Mrs. Glastonbury has been one of the most keenly interested workers of our Foreign Missionary forces in South Australia. She was a member of our State Foreign Missionary Committee for many years. Her late husband was secretary and treasurer of the Hindmarsh Church of Christ Foreign Mission Committee. They were both very strongly united in their desires to see the commission of Christ to "preach the gospel to every creature" carried out. They gave of their means and they gave of their life service. Mrs. Glastonbury was greatly beloved by all who knew her. Our sincere sympathies are with the family in their bereavement, but we are sure that of both these sisters their works will follow them in the lives of their children.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

"He gave himself." Gal. 2: 20.

On the west coast of Africa there is a missionary station in which I have always been a great admirer. Years ago a young man from Western Pennsylvania went there as a missionary. His name was Adolphus C. Good. It was he who visited the dwarfs, the little odd people of Africa, in their own villages, and then told such quaint stories about them. But it is not about Dr. Good I want to tell, but about a little African girl that mission who was won out of savagery and who became a sweet and beautiful Christian girl.

It was Christmas Day, and she had come with all the negro Christians to the mission to celebrate the Lord's birthday. They did not come to receive presents from the mission nor from each other. They came to bring to him, whose birthday it was, the best gift they had. After the service of prayer and praise was over and they had sung about Jesus just as we do on Christmas, the people came forward in a long procession to the front of the church, each one laying in the hands of the minister the gifts that had been brought for the Saviour and his work.

These poor people of Africa brought, some of them, a handful of vegetables, or a handful of flowers, or a penny. Among the Christian girls

that year there was a new face. I do not know her name. We will call her Queen. She was a fine-looking girl of sixteen. She had been an idol worshipper, and from under her old dress she brought forth a silver coin and put it in the hand of the missionary. It was worth eight-five cents, about 20¢. He was so surprised and amazed at her gift that at first he refused to take it, and told her to come to him after the service when she could tell him quietly where she had gotten such a fortune, for he feared he had perhaps stolen it. What was his surprise to find that, in order to give Jesus an offering that would satisfy her heart, she had sold herself to a neighboring planter as a slave for the rest of her life for this eight-five cents, and had brought all of it—every cent and laid it down at the feet of her dear Lord, who had redeemed her from a worse slavery than that would be into which she had sold herself.

I do not know what the missionary did, for he could not allow her to be a slave to any one, and I suppose he himself bought her freedom again for her. I know that there was a great love in her heart, and I am wondering if there is a better Christian in all the world than this little black Queen, who was willing to give herself, because of her great love, so that through her gift others might be told the great and wonderful story of Christmas and the gift of God's love to the world. For the gift of God to the world was in the gift of God, not silver, nor riches of any kind, but of love. He gave Himself, all true life gives. We must give if we want to live.—Hugh T. Kerr, D.D.

Offerings for Foreign Missions

from Victorian Churches and Members will be thankfully received by

A. G. SAUNDERS, 122 Melbourne Street, Nth. Carlton, N.4. Phone. Dwk. 141.

DEATH.

THOMAS.—On Dec. 6 (suddenly), Wellington, N.S., Maryborough, Vic., our beloved sister in Christ was called home. Absent from the body, present with the Lord.

—Inserted by F. and J. Boyle.

IN MEMORIAM.

PENNY.—In loving memory of my husband, E. T. Penny, M.P., died Dec. 9, 1916; also our loved son, Robert Penny, 1st Anzac Cavalry, 12th Light Horse, A. Squadron, died in Belgium Dec. 26, 1918.

"Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."
—Mother and Lex.

STEVENS.—In abidingly fragrant memory of Elizabeth Stevens, who, on Dec. 19, 1921, left us for a while to be "for ever with the Lord." She rests from her labors, and her works follow her.

—Inserted by her daughters, Dolly, Mabel and Edie, and son-in-law, P. C. Bennett.

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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE ON

SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22, at 7 p.m.

The Choir, assisted by Leading Artists will render selections from "The Messiah" and other Christmas Music.

Mrs. Graham Burgin, Soprano, will sing "Come Unto Him."

Mrs. F. L. Mitchell, Contralto, will sing "He Shall Feed His Flock" and "He was Despised."

Mr. Perry Blundell, Tenor, will sing "Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley."

Mr. Victor Hamilton Bass, will sing "Why Do the Nations" and "The Trumpet Shall Sound."

Mrs. Moore, Soprano, will sing "The Star of Bethlehem."

The Choir will sing Selections from "The Messiah" with Carols, and "The Hallelujah Chorus."

Organist, Mr. C. H. Mitchell.

Plautist, Mr. J. Harold Barrett.

Conductor, Mr. Ernest Tippett.

Here and There.

We wish all our readers the happiest of Christmases.

"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people; for there is born unto you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."

Reporters will please note that the "Christian" for next week must close for press on Monday afternoon. There will be no issue on Monday.

In a recent issue it was reported that the thankoffering in cash and promises at the Kingsway mission, Qld., was £357. This was an error, the correct amount being £311.

After five years' service with the church at Irlim, Vic., Bro. J. E. Searle expects to conclude his ministry there on Dec. 31, and to take up the work at Yarrowonga on Jan. 12.

We received the following telegram from Queensland on Tuesday:—"Hurricane Morris having wonderful meetings Sunnyhamb; decisions nightly; six confessions last night.—Hignett."

At the Victorian Young People's Summer Camp Conference at Geelong, New Year's Day has been set apart for visitors, who will receive a cordial welcome. The camp will be at the Agricultural Show Grounds, East Geelong.

F. T. Saunders, Secretary of the College of the Bible, advises having received the first promise to pay the interest on £100 of the College overdraft. The promise, from a Victorian brother, was accompanied by the money for the first quarter. Are there others willing to share in this way?

Few movements in Melbourne church life in recent years have appealed more to us than that which was launched by the Methodist young men to provide a home for neglected babies from slum areas. Complete success has crowned the effort. The homes were opened on Dec. 7, the cost of £27,500 being fully met. The last £3,000 required was raised within five minutes. The home will accommodate 100 babies, and a home for the nurses is attached. We heartily congratulate our Methodist friends on their venture of faith and charity.

Bro. H. W. Whisson, of Ilfracoppin, W.A., writes: On Nov. 21 Bro. Larsen, of the Church of Christ Bible-car, brought a car-load of brethren from Merredin, who, with Bro. and Sister Hall, Bro. and Sister Harper, and our household, made sixteen to break bread at a communion service, which was determined to be the first of such services to be held in our home every Lord's day morning. There are nine who will be able to meet fairly regularly. The second of these services was held on Dec. 1. This is one instance of many direct results of Bro. Larsen's organizing efforts among the isolated brethren, and we wish to commend him and ask God's blessing on him in his organizing and evangelistic efforts."

The church at Strathalbyn, S.A., has held a fifteen days' mission. Bro. Hugh Gray of Nth. Adelaide, was the missionary, and Bro. Ira Durdin the song-leader. Excellent messages were delivered, and the song services were much enjoyed. For three Lord's days meetings were held at 7 a.m. for prayer, and for twenty minutes before the gospel meetings each evening prayer services were held. As many as 120 on Sunday evenings and on week-nights attended the mission. Four persons made the good confession. About 20 copies of Acts were distributed. On Dec. 2 the effort was brought to a close, and a thankoffering amounted to £712/3/4. The church is grateful to Miss Leatham, of Greta-st., who presided at the organ during the mission.

The following telegram from Hamilton, N.S.W., reached us on Tuesday afternoon:—"Civil week festivities, strike trouble and other things making start here difficult; tubercle did not come till Thursday, then unexpected happenings delayed workmen not completed yet. After announcing services we had to go to chapel, leaving blackboard arrangements, but we have had 16 confessions in church building, five last night, all adults but one.—Vawter."

The man who attends church achieves a dozen great things in one. He does his duty, he rests his body, he restores his soul, he hears witness of Christ to his neighbors, he gets his mind quickened, he sets a good example to the community, he establishes pleasant fellowship, he encourages a man of God, he gets the enjoyment of lovely hymns in his soul, he worships God, he hero in his soul is stirred up by good resolutions, and he has opportunity to give for the help of the greatest institution in the world.—"Christian Evangelist."

CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Night lay over the land,
The traffic of day had ceased,
There was silence on every hand,
A great star burned in the East.

Wise men hastening afar,
Searching from shore to shore,
Caught the gleam of the star,
And knew their quest was o'er.

Shepherds guarding their sheep,
Their watch-logs slumbering by,
Saw a bright vision streaking
Out of the midnight sky.

Heard angels' voices sing,
Sweet beyond mortal ken,
"Glory to heaven's great King,
Peace and good will to men."

Sing we that song of love,
Sung at the Christ Child's birth,
"Glory to God above,
Peace and good will on earth."

—Selected.

Bro. S. J. Matheson, of P.S.A., in ordering the "Australian Christian" for 1930, to "renew contacts with the Australian and New Zealand churches" in view of the World Convention at Washington, writes: "You probably know that in June of this present year I resigned my position as pastor of the Hollywood Christian Church, and I am now with the Central Christian Church of Denver. Our membership here is 1207, with a Bible School attendance of about 500. Fifty have been added to the church since the beginning of my pastorate, and the prospects for the future are very bright indeed. Just a few days ago I was given the honor of delivering four lectures before a conference of Baptist and Christian ministers of the State of Montana. This meeting was held at Butte, Mont., and lasted two days. Dr. Livingstone, of New York, represented the Baptist church, and I had the privilege of speaking on behalf of our people throughout the entire gathering, and I believe that something practical was accomplished in removing misunderstandings and bringing both bodies a little more some day to revisit the land of a great joy to me closer together. It would be a great kindness that I received in my early life both from the churches in New Zealand and in Australia."

ONE THOUSAND APPEAL.

"Especially unto the household of faith."

Those directly in touch with charitable affairs in Melbourne are unanimously agreed that the conditions of the past winter have not changed, unless it is for the worse. Benevolent societies are appealing for £15,000, returned Soldiers for £10,000, and undoubtedly others will follow.

It is desired to build up a nucleus in organization for the winter. The sums named are moderate when compared with the needs of the poor. No one is able to say what is in store for some who have suffered for more than a year, and whose present prospects are as hopeless as ever.

The Victorian Department of Social Service is appealing for £1,000 for a special fund to meet present needs for Christmas cheer, and in preparation for the winter. The overdraft at the banks gives grave cause for anxiety. While benevolent societies have closed down for lack of funds, such action by this department is unthinkable. While the department does not deal exclusively with members of the Churches of Christ, it nevertheless always keeps in mind the apostolic injunction, to especially do good unto the household of faith, 90 per cent. to 95 per cent. of the funds are expended, directly and indirectly, within the church. Members everywhere are requested to send donations. The present offers an opportunity for Christians everywhere to show the real meaning of Christian fellowship. If the churches fail the department there is no other source of appeal open to it. Send to Will H. Clay, 19 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, C.I.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SISTERS' AUXILIARY.

The sisters met on Dec. 5 for their monthly meeting, which took the form of a temperance rally. Mrs. Downs led the devotional service, when about 90 sisters were present, 53 being delegates.

There have been 20 additions from the Sunday Schools during the month.

The president, Mrs. Green, then presided over the meeting. Mrs. Brisbane played an organ, and Miss Hazel Reed sang a solo. A letter was read from Miss Callaghan, and the Hon. F. Finlayson gave a very fine address. Offering, £117 8. Mrs. Hodges then read a resolution from the sisters as follows:—"This meeting of delegates from the Sisters' Conference of the Churches of Christ is strongly opposed to the proposal that wine licenses be issued to all forekeepers, and regrets that the Premier should have expressed his sympathy with it when recently submitted to him by a deputation. We will do all in our power to defeat any action which may be taken to associate the sale of alcoholic liquors with the necessary commodities of life."—St. Manors.

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The Prince of Peace.

There are 104 titles of Christ given in the Old and New Testaments. Probably more significant than all of them are those named in the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

1. Wonderful Counsellor: Because he is the wisdom of God, and hence in his office he is able to give us the wisest counsel. 2. Mighty God: Because in him dwells the fulness of the God-head bodily. 3. Everlasting Father: Because his changeless love compasses his people around with paternal and perpetual love. 4. Prince of Peace: Because, having conquered in his own tremendous battle, he reigns for ever in bring peace on earth and good will toward all men.

Wonderful in Work and Word.

Feeding 5,000; stilling the tempestuous sea; raising Lazarus from the dead; healing lepers and others; resurrection from the dead, ascension to heaven. Wonderful words. 1. "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." 2. "I am the bread of Life." 3. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

What kind of a Prince does the prophet say Jesus was? Prince of Peace. Alexander, Julius Caesar, Napoleon, and others were Princes of War. Which would you rather be? His reign, if really over the earth and in the hearts of men, would really abolish war.

The Government Upon His Shoulders.

Upon his shoulders, and not yours, remember. Many people load up with troubles, as though the government were laid upon their shoulders. Don't get uneasy; he is quite able to carry the load. Remember when you are on an ocean liner and rocked in the trough of the sea, the good, faithful captain is on the bridge and a good sailor is in the crew's nest; and so the government is upon his shoulders, and he will carry us through to the end, if we are truly faithful subjects of the Prince of Peace.—"Christian Advocate."

CHRISTMAS.

Once again the Christmas bells

Call old friends from far and near;

Once again their message falls

Of good home and loving cheer.

Once again we lift our eyes

Where the Day-Star ever leads

To the land beyond the skies,

Where the Lamb his chosen leads.

Once again by faith we see

The dear Christ of long ago

Who for us vouchsafed to be

One with us our life to know.

God in Christ we now behold

Recounted by faith to man.

And with saint and sage of old

Thank him for redemption's plan.

Oh, old Christmas, ever new,

Shedding light upon our way,

Lead our journey we pursue

Onward to the perfect day.

Lift our thought from things of earth

To the land beyond the sun,

Where our Christmas shall have birth

Which to endless years shall run.

Once again the Christmas bells

Peal good-will to all mankind,

As the sound more loudly swells.

May we launch thoughts unkind;

May the peace Christ died to win

Spread abroad from shore to shore,

And the reign of love begin

Which shall last for evermore.

—Fratello Thomson.

See Back Page for Rates of Small Advs.

SOUTH-WEST CONFERENCE, W.A.

On Nov. 12, the South-western Conference was held at Harvey. A good number of delegates attended from Collic and Bunbury and several car-loads of visitors came from Perth. The day commenced with a devotional service in Harvey chapel led by Bro. W. Thomson. The business was held in the Roads Board Hall, Bro. H. Pritch presiding. Reports were received from churches and some isolated members. These were very optimistic. It was decided to hold the Conference in 1930 at Bunbury.

A resolution was carried that the Conference establish a sinking fund, each church contributing every week so that funds may be in hand to finance volunteer missions.

Reports from State auxiliaries were received. Bro. B. Ewers (Conference President) represented the H.M. Committee; Bro. Wakefield, F.M. Committee; Mrs. Schwab, Sisters' Auxiliary; Bro. Hutson, Young People's and Pentecost Committee; Bro. Hunt, State Executive.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows: President, Bro. Willie Thomson; vice-president, Bro. A. Horn; secretary, Bro. J. Molgarn; treasurer, Bro. S. Hicks; Committee, Bro. Holmgren and Coles (Bunbury), Bro. Frost and Mandry (Collic), Bro. Fryer (Harvey).

A well-attended meeting was held in the Roads Board Hall at night, when Bro. Hunt, Buckingham and Schwab spoke upon "The Church of Yesterday," "The Church of To-day," and "The Church of To-morrow" respectively. The retiring president introduced the new president. Musical items were rendered by Bro. Reg. Berry, Sister Mandry, the Harvey choir, and the Bunbury Sunday Circle. Thanks are due to the sisters of Harvey church, who catered hospitably for the needs of the guests.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

ELLEISLIE COLLEGE.

(Churches of Christ Collegiate School).

Two school scholarships for 1930 are offered to girls who will board at the College. Particulars from the Principal, Bolt, Harkness, H.A. Magill, Corryton, South Australia.

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VICTORIAN WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE.

The monthly meeting was held on Dec. 6, Mrs. G. W. Mitchell, president, in the chair. There were 95 present. Devotions were led by Mrs. Croxford, her theme being, "The Gift of the Continual Supply." The president extended a cordial welcome to all sisters. Miss Blake gave an interesting address on "The Women of India and their Condition."

Treasurer's Statement was presented and received. Apologies were received from Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Piper.

Home Mission Committee during November visited Moreland and Fairfield sisters' meetings. These meetings are very helpful, and permit of Home Mission being stressed.

General Business Committee had a busy day on Nov. 20 in preparing Christmas parcels and garments for Foxwood Boys' Home. Parcels received from Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Ennis. Donation of £1 received from a sympathiser, £25 from Margaret Gaudin Fund, toward Christmas cheer for the aged and infirm church members. Some of the sisters on this committee have given over 25 years of loving service, Mrs. F. A. Kemp 40 years.

Prayer Committee visited Surrey Hills on Nov. 14. These meetings are for our spiritual good.

Women's Mission Band Committee during last month visited North Melbourne and Bundoora Mission Bands. The young women of these churches were invited to share in the meeting.

Social Service Committee distributed clothing and food to many distressed families. Christmas cheer to be distributed on Dec. 17.

Members of Malvern-Gaulfield church visited the Benevolent Home last month. Wards were visited, and gifts of cheer distributed to the inmates. Mr. Anderson conducted a service in the hall. Many songs were sung and enjoyed by the old folk.

Isolated sisters—59 letters sent out, 8 replies received.

Hospital Visitation Committee paid 72 visits to the various institutions and distributed many kinds of cheer to the inmates. Mrs. Meyer, the superintendent, desires to thank all who contributed Christmas gifts to help cheer the sick and lonely.

The Council of the Women's Conference desires to convey to the Victorian sisterhood the season's greetings and best of wishes for the coming year. Next meeting of Executive will be held in February, 1930.—Miss Hometel, Secy., 12 Florence-ave., Kew.

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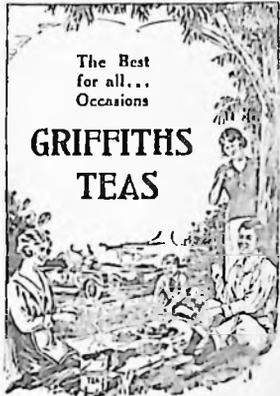
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News of the Churches.

Queensland.

Maryborough.—The chapel was crowded for Christmas tree celebrations on Dec. 12, when gifts were handed to the children. The Bible School is in a healthy condition. Bro. A. J. Payne is the superintendent.

Dundaberg.—One hundred and forty-four broke bread on Sunday, Dec. 8. The building was again well filled for the gospel service, when Mr. Alf Henriksen spoke on "Who hath bewitched you?" Mr. S. Wilcox made the good confession. The choir rendered "Book of Ages" beautifully.

Western Australia.

North Perth.—From a series of special services extending over five weeks much spiritual benefit was derived. A social was held in the chapel on Dec. 1, and the P.B.P. conducted a Japanese fete on Dec. 7, both functions being most enjoyable. The second meeting of the recently formed men's council was held on Dec. 16.

Victoria Park.—Bro. F. Dean spoke at both meetings on Dec. 8. 75 at the Lord's table. Interest and attendance are good. Offering for Home Missions to date is over £21. Bro. Dean has started a local church paper. Refreshing news have been sent at previous meetings lately. Bro. Schwab, Stirling, Nightingale, Lucecraft and Carter have helped with interesting addresses.

Perth.—On Dec. 2 the boys club brought in a close a five weeks' intensive programme which included spiritual, mental and physical development, and which greatly assisted the members to take an active part in the meetings. The Phi Beta Pi club visited the Silver Chain Home and entertained the inmates with dialogues and other items. On Dec. 8 Bro. Stirling addressed the church. Bro. Schwab's gospel message was also very helpful. Attendances were good.

Harvey.—With regard to the church said farewell to Bro. and Sister Ingham who left for Perth on Dec. 2 prior to their journey to Victoria. They labored with the church during September, October and November. The church was greatly uplifted, and three souls were won for Christ, two of whom confessed Christ and were baptised at the close of Bro. Ingham's farewell message on "Will Jesus Come Again?" The church will be without His services of an evangelist, and the preaching will be done by local brethren.

Victoria.

Wilbur.—Meetings are keen in interest. On Dec. 15 Bro. Scarie spoke on "The Meaning of Christmas" to the largest meeting held for many months.

North Melbourne.—Last Saturday the kindergarten children were given an outing to the Botanic Gardens. The sale of work to pay off the debt on the Sunday School building realised over £100.

St. Annand.—On Dec. 15 Bro. C. Jarckel gave very helpful addresses on "God's Preparation for the Coming of Jesus" and "The Interrupted Feast." The Endeavor Society continues to do good work.

Parkdale.—Good meetings on Dec. 15. Bro. Stephenson speaking. Five new scholars at Bible School. Members spent a happy time at Chelsea when they visited there for the midweek service on Dec. 12.

Gardenvale.—Good meetings on Dec. 15. Bro. Andrew addressed the church in the morning. Bro. Waters conducted the gospel service, his theme being "Christ Restoring Light." His messages are much appreciated.

Thornbury.—In spite of wet weather the building was packed at the gospel service on Dec. 15. The papers were presented to the members of the young people's church attendance league. Special singing by the children helped to make the meeting a great success.

Waverata.—Meetings are fairly well attended. Prizes have been awarded to those under 16 years who attended morning meetings most regularly. Eight came every Lord's day for two months, six of whom have been at every meeting for two years.

Warnambool.—Bro. Blair preached at both services on Dec. 1. On Dec. 8 one young lady was baptised. Last Sunday Bro. Viney preached on "God's Jewels." A girl from the Bible School confessed Christ. The ladies' aid sale of work realised £10 profit. The meetings have been well attended lately.

Port Fairy.—Bro. B. J. Sandells concludes his ministry with the church this month. On Nov. 21 Bro. E. C. Blshop, on behalf of members and friends, presented Bro. Sandells with a silver cake-dish, as a token of appreciation, and in view of his approaching marriage to Miss O. Scary, North Yarra.

Fitzroy.—A Christmas tree was given to the kindergarten on Dec. 11. The arrangements were well carried out under the direction of Miss Esve Andrews, who received congratulations on attaining the degree of A.L.C.M. Miss Andrews has worked unflinchingly in the kindergarten and kindergarten, and both departments reflect great credit on her zeal.

Brim.—Services are very well attended. On Dec. 8 Bro. Wm. Wilson, of the Prohibition League, gave an informative address on the No-Licence question. On Dec. 15 Bro. White spoke in the morning, and in the evening Bro. Scarie gave a fine address on "The King with the Beard in His Mouth." A young woman made the good confession.

South Yarra.—Both Endeavor Societies are maintaining attendances. On Sunday Bro. Alec. Wilson took charge temporarily of the Bible School, which again reached its recent high record. Bro. F. T. Saunders was very impressive in the morning, and "The Ministry," and in the evening Bro. Alec. Wilson began his period of service with a fine address on "The Greatest Song."

Yanboe.—Bro. A. R. Lloyd was the morning speaker on Dec. 15. Bro. Chivell preaching at night to a fair attendance. On Dec. 16 Bro. Lloyd was farewell prior to his taking up the work at Gilgandra, N.S.W. The best wishes of church and auxiliaries were voiced, accompanied by parting gifts. Choir and friends combined in presenting a concert programme on Dec. 11 to a good audience.

Surrey Hills.—On Sunday morning, Dec. 8, two young men were received into fellowship. At the close of the service Mrs. Ward, on behalf of the ladies' guild, presented the church with a cheque for £50 and the tennis club with a cheque for £10. These amounts, together with other donations to mission work, were voted by the ladies' guild out of the receipts of its recent sale of works.

Fit. Hill.—On Dec. 1 Bro. Beard conducted the services. Bro. Fawcett is returning to his home in W.A. for vacation, and during his absence brethren from Dumolly and Maryborough will take charge of the meetings. At a Children's Day service held recently the collection amounted to £12-12-3. On Nov. 27 the Bible School conducted a very successful concert, proceeds being in aid of prohibition fund.

Asent Vale.—Morning and evening meetings are well attended. Bro. Patterson preaching very earnestly. Bible School is keeping up. All auxiliaries are holding final meetings for the year. The Women's Mission Band held a special meeting on Dec. 4 for Home Missions, when Bro. Gale gave a fine lantern lecture. The offering amounted to £2-7-3. Recently three kitchen teas were given by the sisters of the church to Sisters Mrs. B. Vostl, Miss F. Wines and Miss D. Chivers, who were being married.

Middle Park.—On Dec. 15 Bro. Grunch gave a helpful address at the morning service. At the close of Bro. Baker's gospel address on "The Intercession of the Holy Spirit," a young lady made the good confession. Great interest is maintained at the midweek prayer meeting, many young people attending. The sympathy of the church is extended to Sister Morris and Sister Cook in the loss of their mother.

Shepparton.—Very fine meetings were held during the past month. On Dec. 12 the church gave a social to Sister Jessie Mackie, in view of her approaching marriage to Bro. Neil Sims. Both have been enthusiastic Endeavor workers. Bro. Larsen's preaching is much appreciated, and many visitors attend gospel services. On Dec. 15, after the evening message on "The Fulness of Time," there were three decisions.

Emerald.—On Dec. 14 a farewell social and purse of money were given to Bro. Street, and a welcome to Bro. Manning, combined with a Sunday School anniversary. Upwards of fifty brethren and sisters journeyed from Dandenong and Berwick, contributing about half the items on the programme. The gathering was among the most successful ever held in the district. Bro. Street has done excellent work, and all look forward to a bright future with Bro. Manning.

Newmarket.—On Dec. 4 a successful social evening was held. Goods to the value of £5 from the sale of work were sold. On Dec. 8 Bro. Black spoke morning and evening. On Dec. 10 the ladies' guild held their last meeting for the year, when visitors were entertained at afternoon tea, and tokens of esteem were presented to the president, Mrs. Kymie. On Dec. 15 Bro. Black was the speaker. Sunday School attendances are good. On Dec. 17 the last meeting of the Phi Beta Pi was held, concluding with a social evening.

Burnley.—At the Bible School anniversary on Dec. 8 Bro. Gabbie addressed the meeting in the afternoon, and Bro. Saunders at night. A splendid solo was rendered by Sister Kruger. An orchestra from Gardiner rendered appreciated assistance. On Dec. 15 there were large meetings. Bro. Brooker spoke in the afternoon, and night Bro. Gave gave a stirring address. A solo was sung by Bro. Budy. The Griffiths family supplied the orchestra, and Bro. Heywood led the singing. There were eight conversions as a result in these meetings.

Castlemaine.—The tea-meeting in connection with the 50th anniversary passed off successfully. Preachers from other churches in the town were present, also Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Clipstone, of Geelong. Mr. Clipstone gave an address at the public meeting. On Dec. 8 reference was made to the passing away of Bro. A. McKenzie, and at the conclusion four were immersed. On Dec. 15, three Sunday School scholars were received into the church. Bro. Egan has commenced a young Christian's class at 2.15 p.m. each Sunday.

Camberwell.—Morning meetings are well attended, but the gospel meetings are only moderate. The services of Bro. Chipperfield as song-leader are much appreciated. Several young folks from the Sunday School have made good confession. School and church record best of the year. Bro. Snow, who has taken up the work at Stawell with best wishes for his success in that sphere of labor. The Phi Beta Psi held a successful sale of work, which resulted in a good sum being handed to the officers for reduction of debt on building.

East Keew.—At a very fine meeting in the evening of Dec. 15, Bro. A. J. Ingham gave a heart-to-heart talk. In the afternoon the Bible School gave Bro. and Sister Ingham a welcome to the school. Sisters Watt and Latham sang a duet, and the kinders sang a welcome to which brother and sister and Dorothy, after which Bro. and Sister Ingham both spoke to the children. To a good meeting at night Bro. Ingham gave a fine message, and two young men confessed Christ. A duet by Sister Watt and Watt and a solo by Bro. Willows were enjoyed.

Drummond.—Bro. I. B. Baker commenced his ministry with the church on Dec. 8. A happy and profitable time is expected. Home Mission offering amounted to £130.64.

Cheltenham.—The Bible Class is having a series of studies on "The Great Restoration Movement." At the evening service on Dec. 15 Bro. D. Waleley preached well on "From Sift to Earnest."

Kaniva.—Sister L. Williams, on vacation from the College of the Bible, and Bro. R. L. Williams, prior to his departure for America, have been welcome visitors. Bro. Williams gave inspiring messages on Dec. 1. Splendid interest is maintained. C.E. meetings have greatly improved. Good attendances continue in the adult Bible Class. Bro. Methven has been invited to his third year of ministry with the church.

Preston.—Meetings and interest remain at a high level. On Dec. 8 Bro. Fisher spoke at both services, there being two baptisms at the evening service. On Dec. 12 a cricket club concert was held. Renovations and alterations to chapel and school house in progress. On Dec. 15 Bro. Newell gave excellent addresses. A large social was tendered to Bro. Newell on Dec. 16. He has finished his studies at the College of the Bible. Bro. Gale visited the school on Dec. 15.

Moreland.—On Dec. 11 the members of the ladies' aid society held a successful garden party at the Botanic Gardens. The young people's clubs held another successful "gift social" on Dec. 11. On Dec. 15 Bro. Hallgren addressed the church. In the evening a Christmas service was conducted. Special items by the orchestra, a solo by Miss Ida Bray, duet by Mrs. Webb and Miss Payne, and the Moreland quartette party, were greatly enjoyed. An offering for Christmas cheer amounted to £8/2/4.

Bendigo.—Good meetings since last report, including a series of four Sundays special addresses, closing on Dec. 1 with members' rally and anniversary thankoffering, the latter nominally to amount to £20. Bible School annual picnic at Castlemaine on Nov. 17 was successful. Mutual improvement meetings have included a picnic at Beaconsfield Reservoir on Dec. 7, a successfully contested debate on Dec. 9 against St. Andrew's church on "Compulsory Military Training," and a banquet on Dec. 16 to close the year's activities.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—At the morning meeting on Dec. 15, Bro. Anderson, of Malvern-Gaulfield, gave an appreciative address. There was a good attendance at the evening service, when the choir, under the leadership of Mr. N. A. Haddow, rendered two anthems and the sacred cantata, "The Night of Wonders." The soloists were Miss H. Dickens, Miss J. Lowe, Mr. C. Dabb and Mr. P. Kerrigan, Miss M. E. Pittman assisting at the organ. At a luncheon meeting held on Dec. 17 the resignation of Bro. A. G. Saunders was accepted with regret. The annual nomination of officers was also proceeded with.

Brunswick.—On Dec. 8 Sisters Misses O. and L. Linton, from Launceston, and Sister Mrs. Ford and Miss M. Ford, after their absence in N.S.W., were welcomed. Bro. Pittman's evening topic was "What Jesus Thought of Himself." In the afternoon a meeting was held at the home of Sister Mrs. R. Milburn, who is ill. On Dec. 12 Sister Mrs. G. W. Mitchell, president of Sisters' Conference, opened the sale of gifts, which was continued Friday afternoon and evening. On Dec. 14 the Bible School conducted a Christmas tree for the kindergarten children. Sister Mrs. Jenner, who is an invalid, has had the misfortune to break her leg.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—Good meetings last Lord's day. At the morning service Mr. W. J. Edly, secretary for the Mission to Lepers, addressed the church. Bro. Moore delivered an excellent sermon at the evening meeting. Amongst the visitors was Bro. Hindley, from Croydon, S.A. Last Wednesday evening an enjoyable social meeting of members was held to close the year and also to welcome home Bro. and Sister A. L. Gibson after their trip abroad. Both gave very interesting accounts of their experiences and impressions. The ladies' "Time and Talents" guild handed over to the treas-

urer of the church a substantial sum as a result of their work during the last few months.

South Australia.

Adgate Valley.—The Dorcas society, formed in July by 18 members active and 9 honorary, has made 174 garments for the Mada Home, 54 for Children's Hospital and 80 for Protestant Children's Home. Local cases of distress have been helped. Mrs. E. J. Paternoster is president, Mrs. Roberts secretary.

Unley.—Three confessions on Dec. 8, Bro. H. R. Taylor preaching. The Junior Foreign Mission Band held a garden party at Mrs. P. S. Messen's home, resulting in £12 for the funds. Tennis club members had an enjoyable picnic at National Park. Special Sunday evening collection for Christmas cheer realised over £9.

Kadana.—The Y.P.S.C.E. and the J.C.E. have had good interesting meetings of late. On Dec. 8 Bro. F. G. Filmer gave a good message to the church and another at a well-attended gospel meeting. Bro. Bowers was indisposed. On Dec. 15 Bro. Garland, of Wallaroo, gave an acceptable exhortation. Bro. Bowers spoke at night.

Murray Bridge.—During Bro. Killier's absence on holidays, Bro. Horsell, Hudd, Swift and Dutton have given enjoyable addresses. On Dec. 10 the quarterly C.E. social took the form of a gift night, and a box of groceries has been packed to forward to the Protestant Children's Home. The sisters' guild have sent a donation to the same institution.

Milang.—At the gospel service on Dec. 8 one young man made the good confession, and was baptised on the following Wednesday evening. The C.E. Society recently held a successful social. The meetings each week are very helpful. Several members from Pt. Sturt church help considerably in the Endeavor meetings. Pt. Sturt church has had two additions by faith and obedience.

Hindmarsh.—Attendances at services on Dec. 15 were good. Bro. Allen Brooke spoke, his subject in the morning being "Salvage in Jesus." His gospel message was "A Great Saviour." During the week the Young Worshipers' League celebrated its first birthday with a party. The kindergarten department held a Christmas tree party on Dec. 11. The death of Sister Mrs. A. Gibson is reported with regret.

Burdertown.—On Dec. 1 the church extended a welcome to Sister Mrs. Cyril Vero and her three sons, who were immersed the previous week. On Dec. 8 Bro. and Sister Dodd and son, from Strathalbyn, were welcomed into the church. At the women's mission band annual election of officers on Dec. 12 Sister Milne was elected president and Sister Warneken secretary. Bro. Cornelius has accepted another term of labor with the church. Sister Lily Smith is in hospital.

Queenstown.—The increase attendance campaign at the young people's meeting is progressing at the morning service on Dec. 15 Bro. Brooker exhorted. In the evening his subject was "The Forerunner of Jesus Christ." On Dec. 10 the girls' wattle club held a concert for Christmas cheer. The chapel was filled, and 25 confessions were received in addition to groceries, of which 150 parcels were sent to those in need. A fifteen parcels was provided. On Dec. 11 the kindergarten department had their Christmas tree.

Glencoe.—Three young people were baptised on Dec. 8. Two made the good confession on Dec. 8. At evening, and were baptised straightway. All that evening, and are in good heart. The Bible School has attained a record in attendance. Three Endeavorers passed with honors, securing the diploma in the State C.E. examinations. The intermediate society recently held a successful concert in aid of mission work. A sale of work, conducted by the ladies' guild, resulted in a substantial sum for local needs. On Dec. 15 Bro. Edwards spoke at both services, the evening service taking the form of a Bible School exercise with special singing by scholars and others, and with special singing by a scholar, and a tea-taking part in the service. A scholar, and a tea-taker in the kinders, made the confession.

Semaphore.—At the annual business meeting of the church on Dec. 11 very encouraging reports were presented from all auxiliaries. On Dec. 12 the aged members (those over 70) were entertained, each one receiving gifts. At the J.C.E. anniversary on Dec. 15 there were good attendances. Bro. Reg. Lamphure gave the morning exhortation, and Bro. Heller spoke at night on "Persons Wasted." The J.C.E. under the superintendent, Miss. Ivy Bray, provided special singing. 150 scholars were at the Bible School.

Prospect.—Bro. Russell's addresses on the Second Coming have been good and instructive. On Dec. 15 messages from F. J. Banks were appreciated. Bro. Ian Guthrie, on vacation from the College of the Bible, presided in the morning. Offerings were received morning and evening to provide Christmas cheer for needy families. Christmas parties have been given to kindergarten and primary departments. Bro. Ross Graham was the speaker at the night class in the afternoon. The members of this class are grateful for the addresses given by speakers during the year.

Gattonville.—Bro. C. P. Hughes concluded his two years' ministry with the church on Dec. 8. At the evening service about 150 were present. The church rendered several items. On Dec. 9 the church met and decided upon entering into circuit work with the church at Fullarton, with Bro. W. G. Graham as evangelist. Opportunity was taken to say farewell to Bro. Hughes. On Dec. 12 the J.C.E. gave a splendid demonstration entitled "The Junior Garden." Bro. and Sister L. H. Walters worked wonderfully to make it a success. On Dec. 15 Bro. F. Evans spoke in the morning and Bro. S. H. Hughes delivered an appealing gospel address at night.

New South Wales.

Lidcombe.—On Dec. 8 Bro. H. Larcombe, of North Sydney, presided. In the evening the immersion of two candidates was witnessed by a large audience.

Enmore.—Bro. S. J. Southgate was the speaker on Sunday morning, and at night Bro. Paternoster preached. There were three confessions. On Tuesday evening the C.E. held a sale of gifts to assist the H.M. Committee, and received about £50.

Canby Vale.—On Dec. 5, at the Endeavor meeting, three were baptised and one young man came forward; he was baptised on Dec. 8. Good meetings all day. On Dec. 15, Bro. J. Clyde-ale exhorted on "Faith, Hope and Charity." Bro. Galt Hinrichsen preached on "Christ the Prophet."

Cherrywood.—Bro. S. Gole gave a very helpful message in morning of Dec. 15. The evening service was full of inspiration. Sister I. Woodward was baptised. Bro. Whelan's theme, "The Holy Spirit," was inspiring. The choir rendered special music. During the past year 42 people confessed Christ and were baptised. The Home Mission offering to date is £390. An offering was taken for Christmas cheer, and £11 15s was received.

Albury.—There has been a marked improvement in attendance, and four have been added by faith and baptism. At an "every-member-present" service on the morning of Dec. 15, the broke record. 55 members broke bread for the day. All are working together splendidly. The church reverts the going of Bro. J. B. Combridge early in the new year; but a fruitful time with Bro. Pratt, from Yarravongga, is anticipated. The church has been greatly assisted by Mrs. Churchills Chan's violin orchestra.

BIRTH.

RICHES.—On Dec. 18, at Memorial Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Riches, of 24 Yillinda-terre, Lower Mitcham, S.A.—a daughter (Dorothy Beth). Both well.

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OBITUARY.

DANIEL.—Our beloved Sister Annie Vaughan Daniel, of Long Plains, South Australia, passed away to be with Jesus on Lord's day, Nov. 21, at Memorial Hospital, Balaklava. She was baptised by Bro. G. Day on June 23, 1895, and has been a most consistent worker for her Master. For many years as teacher of Bible class in Long Plains school, her work was blessed, and many of her scholars have accepted Christ as their Saviour. We laid her body to rest by the side of her parents in Shannon cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of sympathising friends. Bro. Mason conducted the funeral service. Loving sympathy is extended to the mourners.

BRADLEY.—Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, relict of John Bradley, M.B.A., died at her late residence, De Witt-st., Battery Point, Hobart, Tas., on Friday, Nov. 29. For over fifty years she had been a member of the church in Collins-st., and as long as health permitted was never absent from the meetings. When the late G. A. Carr first preached the gospel of the Churches of Christ in Hobart she, with her late husband, obeyed the simple gospel, and shortly after this Bro. Carr united them in matrimony. They thus became the first couple to be married by a preacher of the Churches of Christ in Tasmania. When Bro. Bradley died he was chairman of the Stock Exchange, and a member of the State Parliament. The leading newspaper of Hobart said that, "while disagreeing with his politics, they freely admitted that he was worthy of the name given him, everywhere throughout Tasmania, of 'Honest John Bradley.'" Sister Bradley was the true helpmeet and partner of this able and godly man. A large gathering of relatives and friends met at the home, where a brief service was held, and at the Cornelian Bay cemetery a still larger gathering paid a last tribute of respect to the memory of this good woman. The writer, assisted by Bro. E. A. Heard, secretary of the Collins-st. church, conducted a brief service. Her niece and adopted daughter, Mrs. J. Lee, attended her with great devotion as a loving niece. To her, Miss Pearl, and Bro. Lee, as well as to the other relatives and friends, the sympathy of the brotherhood of the Churches of Christ in Tasmania is extended. F. Collins, President of Conference.

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