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THE PAST CONFERENCE YEAR.

During the Easter week, Conference meetings were held in all the States of the Commonwealth, except South Australia, the latter finding it more to its advantage to meet at a later date. In New Zealand, too, Conferences were held at Easter in the three districts of the Dominion. The reports of these meetings have been given in successive numbers of the "Christian," and by this means our readers have had the privilege of seeing what progress our churches in Australasia have been making during the past year. Doubtless most of our readers will find their interest centred principally in the doings of their respective States, but it would be paying them a poor compliment if we suggested that the work in other fields did not command their attention also. It is a fine thing to realise that the religion of Jesus Christ widens our sympathies and has no geographical limitations. Victories won for Christ in one locality are a source of great joy in all the others. And as we thus have presented before us the year's work in Australasia, the feeling of kinship and unity is deepened amongst us, and a greater inspiration for future work is thereby engendered.

Missions.

The past year has been one of great progress, especially in those States that had the benefit of the Scoville mission. Victoria and South Australia reaped the greatest harvest, but New South Wales and West Australia had also considerable gains. But even without the Scoville mission it would have been a year of progress. The number of all things would not have been so great, but substantial gains would have been recorded. From a Federal point of view the most pleasing incident of the year has been the success which has attended the mission in Launceston, conducted by S. G. Griffith, under the auspices of the Federal Acting Executive. It was a venture that succeeded far beyond the Executive's most sanguine expectations. To God be all the praise and

glory. It was not expected that Tasmania would establish a record in mission work. But the fact remains that it has done so. A three months' mission with 271 conversions, and the purchase of a handsome chapel for £800, over £200 of which was raised by the local church, are results which had not been hitherto approached by any single congregation. It must be remembered that the church at the beginning of the mission had only about 40 members, and met in a hired hall. It will now have over 200 members and meet in a desirable building of its own in a most central and advantageous position.

Falling to respond.

More work of this kind could be done by the Federal Acting Committee if the churches of the Commonwealth responded more readily to the very modest calls made upon them. It is rather disheartening to find so many churches that professed their inability to pay to the Federal Fund such small sums as £1 or £2 per year. It is inconceivable that any church could be so poverty-stricken as to be unable to raise this small requirement. Surely, when the churches which have not responded see what good results have been achieved so far, they will at once determine that the good work shall not be stopped through any fault of theirs. We are assured they will do so more readily when they learn that the Federal funds have been exhausted in the Launceston effort. Let it be remembered that the small band of brethren in Launceston have helped financially in this most noble, and the new converts show an equal willingness to bear the burden that has come upon them. The Federal Executive is now anxious to give Queensland an active role. The brethren there are eager upward lift. The brethren there are eager for aggressive work, but their resources are slender, and their appeal comes to us for help. They will do what they can, but without the right man to run a mission, and a little pecuniary help, they cannot attempt great things. Timely assistance now might bring a new era of prosperity to Queensland, and it will be a great privilege for all the churches to help in this forward move-

ment. Will the churches respond to this appeal?

The year's lessons.

As we look back upon the past year, the impression left upon our mind is that we have a message for the people for which they have been waiting. We have to some extent recovered the lost art of evangelisation. Our preachers are evangelists in the true sense of the word. Their preaching has a distinct objective. They preach with a view to conversion. Not conversion at a remote date, but immediate decision for Christ. In other words, their preaching is apostolic. While others are discussing how to make preaching attractive, we are content to preach what some one has termed "Soul Saving Sermons." Experience has proved that we cannot improve upon apostolic methods. "The secret of the successful evangelism of the Disciples, says I. H. Garrison, is to be found in their reliance upon the simple gospel of Jesus Christ as the power of God to produce faith, and secure salvation; their emphasis of human responsibility in yielding to the claims of this gospel, and the clear manner in which they are able to point out how the sinner, who is seeking salvation, may find Christ, who is seeking the sinner, and be able to rejoice in the remission of sins through a hearty trust in Christ manifested in compliance with his requirements.

Apostolic methods best.

It is quite clear to us that the "modern mind" has little or nothing to offer us by way of improvement on apostolic methods. The church of the future will perhaps realise that pondering to the senses, which sometimes brings temporary success, is no sufficient substitute for the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. It will realise, moreover, that the priesthood of a select few instead of the priesthood of every true disciple of Jesus is at variance with the genius of Christianity. A working church in which all are preachers of the gospel in some form or other, is the church that will win the world for Christ.

Editorial Notes

An Advisory Board.

Among other motions passed at the Victorian Conference, not the least important was that adopted on the suggestion of the Melbourne church officers' quarterly meeting, "that an Advisory Board be appointed, so that churches desirous of engaging preachers may obtain such information as it is possible for the Board to give." This resulted in a board of seven well-known brethren being elected to carry out the idea of the Conference. Our ultra-congregationalism is subject to abuse, as churches are apt to select preachers of whom they know but little, and the cause as a whole as well as the particular church may suffer in consequence. Most of the States have had sad experience in the past, and as our numbers continue to increase the necessity for caution becomes more important. A glib preacher who had found his denominational home too warm could suddenly discover the attractiveness of the position we occupy, and be received with open arms. But if this resolution becomes practically effective, churches in Victoria will in future consult the Advisory Board before engaging a preacher who is suddenly converted from the denominations or who comes to us from other countries. In the very nature of the case such a committee will have better facilities for obtaining the requisite information than a single church, and no preacher worth having would hesitate to submit his credentials, and supply such information as the Board may wish to secure. Preachers, too, could submit their names to the Board when wishing to change their location, or on arrival in the State, and obtain such information regarding fields of labor as would be helpful in enabling them to decide where to go. The Board would in no way interfere with the independence of either churches or preachers, but should prove of assistance to both. However, it is one thing to appoint such a Board and another to get the churches and preachers generally to make use of it. We trust it will prove to be of practical utility.

Fellowship and Aggressiveness.

The Conferences in the various States of the Commonwealth and in the Dominion have been seasons of great refreshing. The reports, on the whole, were most cheering, and the general spirit of optimism is in itself one of the factors which must tell for future success. The fellowship, so manifest in these gatherings as a rule, has been very marked this year, and altogether the meetings have been decidedly successful. While it is good to know we are on the right side, it is additionally enjoyable to realise that we are on the winning side as well. But the object of these annual assemblies is not merely to enjoy each others' fellowship,

or to listen to encouraging reports of the past year's work. Our purpose will largely fail if we do not return to our churches resolved to carry out the resolutions passed at the Conferences. We cannot rest on the successes of the past or the communion of the present. The attainments of the year gone by should but stimulate us to greater energies. While some religious bodies are deploring small attendances and decreasing interest, the churches that wear no denominational name are rejoicing at the progress of the gospel under their preaching, and in the evidence that the simple Christianity of the New Testament is still the power of God unto salvation. With such experimental proof they have no option but to push on their propaganda with ever increasing zeal. Their plea for the ancient undiluted gospel and the union of Christians upon the Biblical basis and no other, is destined to command the attention and respect of the whole Christian community, provided they remain loyal and energetic. But this means work and money. It means sacrifice that may be felt. If the brethren of all the States are prepared to enter at once upon a vigorous campaign of evangelistic aggressiveness, the coming year may be one of unprecedented prosperity. But this will require individual and definite effort as well as self-denying contribution. We must use our tongues no less than our purses. We have not in the past depended exclusively upon our paid preachers, and to this, in no small measure, has our advance been owing. More and more we must cultivate "the effectual working in the measure of every part" if the body is to make increase. All the indications point to a great future for the cause we love, provided we are zealous and faithful. The door of opportunity stands wide open. Let us enter without delay.

Stagnant Congregationalism.

The fifth triennial Assembly of the Australian Congregational Union has been holding its sessions in Adelaide. Last Friday B. C. Wieland, of Perth, read a paper on the numerical progress of the denomination which was the reverse of encouraging. The figures for 1911 were: New South Wales, a decrease of 2179; Victoria, increase of 2145; S.A., 13,357; increase of 19; W.A., 6293; increase of 1799; Tasmania, 4889, decrease of 644. During the decade the increase of population was 2,000,000, but of Congregationalists only 485, 17.8 per cent. The Congregational growth class was that "the church seemed to be and they must see to it that Congregationalism should be better organised. Congregationalism in Australia was bordering on stagnation." Another minister declared that "the figures showed a condition of things that should cause them shame and humiliation." One thought the position was owing to failures on the part of some ministers in their life work as pastors, and another that

their salvation as a body depended upon the fulfilment of the pastoral office. The Congregationalists do not lack in the intellectual equipment of their ministers compared with other bodies, nor are they deficient in work or social position. But the fact remains that while other denominations are advancing, they are at a standstill. We are not prepared to admit that the Congregationalist is responsible for their slow progress, or that the remedy lies in further organisation. Baptists have the same form of church government, and so have those known simply as Churches of Christ, but they make better headway. According to the last census the Churches of Christ led all the churches in the matter of numerical growth. It is possible that there may be partial failure in pastoral oversight, but we are not sure that this is more marked than in other bodies, or that it has much to do with their comparative failure. Our own conviction is that the weak spot in the denomination is its lack of evangelistic fervor. While there are many preachers with pronounced zeal for winning converts, a large proportion of Congregational ministers appear to us to relegate the distinctively evangelistic work to a subordinate position instead of giving it prominence as the supreme mission of the church. Unless our preaching contains a distinct appeal for decisions it lacks an essential condition of success. To preach Christ and him crucified, and to bring sinners to conviction and submission, is the preacher's chief work, and this neglected, failure must result. Congregationalism has a history of which it may well be proud, and to-day, by its breadth of toleration and intellectual weight it exercises an influence far beyond the limits of its own body, but if many of its ministers lack the one thing needful, the overmastering passion for winning souls for Christ, the whole denomination must suffer. The only true remedy is to preach the old primitive gospel with the old primitive zeal, and wherever this is done we shall have the old primitive success.

Two Paths.

As one toward heaven my face was set,
I came unto a place where two ways met.

One led to Paradise and one away;
And fearful of myself I should not stray.

I feared that I might know
Which was the way wherein I ought to go.
The first was one my weary eyes to close,
Winding along through pleasant fields of ease,
Beneath the shadows of fair branching trees.

"This path of ease and solitude
Surely must lead to heaven," I cried

In joyous mood.
"You rugged one, so rough for weary feet,
The footpath of the world's too long street,
Can never be the narrow way of life."
But at that moment I thereon stepped
A footprint bearing trace of having labored,
And knew it for the Christ's, on whose my soul
And followed where He led.

—Hymn A Weekly.

Auckland District Conference

NEW ZEALAND

Meetings in connection with the thirtieth annual Conference of Auckland District Churches of Christ, New Zealand, began on Wednesday, March 19, when the annual Sisters' Meeting was held.

The first meeting in connection with the General Conference was held on Thursday evening, March 20, in the meeting house, Ponsonby-road, when the annual tea and social meeting was held. The attendance was the largest for several years, and was a success in every way, but far from being a satisfactory representation of the Church of Christ in a city with a population of about 110,000 souls. We must admit that the church here to-day is but an infant, a sturdy infant, compared with what it should be.

The social meeting was under the presidency of F. W. Greenwood, a brother well-known on both sides of the Tasman Sea, and the speakers were Chas. Watt, another well-known preacher, and Matthew Bell, who some years ago came to Auckland after a course of study at the College of the Bible at Melbourne. The programme for the evening was illustrative of "The Voyage of Life," and an interesting and instructive time was spent by the large audience assembled, which contained representatives from most if not all the Churches of Christ in the district.

On Friday, March 21, at 9 o'clock, the chair was taken by A. F. Turner, evangelist at Ponsonby, and for about thirty minutes those present engaged in devotional exercises, which were a fitting prelude to a long and enjoyable day devoted to the study of some of the problems which here, as everywhere, demand solution at the hand of the disciples of Christ.

J. B. Allen, President, took the chair at 9.30, and in a very practical address made two suggestions, which were at once adopted and acted on by Conference. The first suggestion drew attention to the total absence of united effort to secure the best musical talent of the local churches, and to so combine their services as to assist in gospel proclamation and other work in which the churches might be engaged, and suggestion number two urged the necessity of appointing a committee to meet vessels bringing immigrants to the Dominion in order to assist those who, coming as strangers to our shores, might with a little judicious counsel and help be in need to become church members. If not already such. Committees were set up to deal with both problems, and doubtless good results will be secured in each case.

The reports of work done for the year just gone, whilst showing that a great deal of effort had been put forth by a large number of able and consecrated workers, did

not contain reports of any very large ingathering of souls as a result of their labors. The one exception to this was the Richmond church, which stands out as having had the largest increase in membership, and tops the list of churches in this district in the matter of giving of its substance to the Lord's work. For Foreign Missions, its average gift, per member, is nearly fifteen shillings for the past year.

The Home Mission Committee collected and spent about £300, having had two preachers employed during the greater part of the year; and the Foreign Mission report showed something like £260 collected in this district during the year. The mission at Bulawayo, South Africa, is in rather deep water just now, owing to a prolonged drought, which has created something like a famine there, and has made the lot of the missionary more than usually hazardous and trying. It is hoped that, as copious rains have recently fallen, things will soon return to their normal condition. Otherwise the reports from the mission field were satisfactory, showing as they do that a great work is being done there by L. Hadfield and his band of faithful helpers.

We had to mourn the loss of several of those who for many years have been wont to take part in the Conference meetings, specially Bren. F. Davies, W. Marsden and Bro. Pricter, of Port Albert, all earnest, sincere followers of their Master, and who by their many years of ungrudging service have surely secured the right to the greeting "Well done, good and faithful servant."

As Auckland is holding an International Exhibition this year, opening in December next, Conference decided in view of that fact to make special efforts in order that visitors to that great show might have an opportunity of knowing that there are Churches of Christ in existence here; and if any readers of the "Australian Christian" would be thinking of visiting this country that would be a splendid time to do so, and if they let us know they are coming we will do our best to make their visit enjoyable.

New committees were elected as under: Temperance Committee.—Sisters Mason and McDermott, Bren. F. W. Greenwood, J. L. Scott, H. N. Bagnall, and Hansen.

Publication Committee.—Bren. Scott, E. Carr, Chas. Watt, Greenwood, R. J. Dick, W. Taylor and Bagnall.

Bible School Advisory Committee.—Mrs. Bodle, Bren. E. A. Perkins, C. Collier, R. Laing, junr., Pilkington, and Lomax.

Home Mission Committee.—Bren. Dick, E. Vickery, A. A. Creamer, H. Edwards, F. Allen, G. Moyle and W. Cannell.

Foreign Mission Committee.—Sisters J. Morton, M. Paole, Vincent, Bren. J. C.

Morton, J. B. Allen, J. C. Laing, Urquhart, Wedding, H. Smith and Pilkington.

Conference Arrangement Committee.—Bren. Potter, Greenwood, Cannell, and one delegate from each of other committees.

Auditors.—Bren. Lye, W. Taylor and F. Evans.

One noticeable feature of the Conference was the receipt of the first annual report of the Dominion Church Extension Board, and though now but in its infancy, it is potential of great things in the future, and the "little stranger" was heartily welcomed to Conference.

Throughout the meetings faith, hope and love combined to create enthusiasm, and we look forward confidently to the coming year, believing that in it great things will be attempted for the Master, and cheered with the promise that "in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Lost Books.

One of the largest things in the world to explain, if we did not see the hand of God in it, would be the way in which our Bible has come down to us, although its last page was written fourteen hundred years before the invention of the printing press.

It becomes all the more wonderful when we remember how much precious literature—even whole libraries—has been lost to the world, before the days of Caxton and since. The great Pinelinn library, which at the time was considered to be the largest and most valuable in the world, was purchased after the death of its possessor in the seventeenth century by a London bookseller, who chartered three vessels to convey it to England. He was pursued by corsairs, who, having captured one of the ships and finding that it carried but a cargo of books and manuscripts, destroyed the whole lot by casting them into the sea.

By the burning of the Straßburg library during the Franco-Prussian war, many valuable works were destroyed, among which were the records of the legal proceedings in the controversy between Gutenberg and his associates as to whether or not he invented the art of printing.

In the south of Europe there is a story told of Giovanni, a learned Italian, who having travelled through Greece in search of lost manuscripts, and acquired a very valuable collection, was overtaken by a storm on his return voyage, and the captain ordered the entire cargo to be thrown overboard.

Every one knows how Carlyle's first manuscript of the French Revolution was accidentally destroyed while in the possession of John Stuart Mill. In 1862 a copy of "Canterbury Tales," valued at £500, was used to light a fire in a London church.

Demand nothing for yourself, and you will be continually surprised how praise and promotion will pour in upon you, and that at the most unexpected times and from the most unexpected people.—Alex. White.

The
Launceston Mission.

By S. G. Griffith.

The first Federal mission is history. We have much to thank God for. An effort like this is not without lesson. We should learn from this to plan and do more elsewhere.

We recognise, of course, above all and through all the divine power as a mighty factor in every successful mission. God made this victory possible, and he is ready to do as much and more everywhere. If the human part is done God certainly will not fail. On the human side, then, what should we look to?

First, I think, a clean church. God cannot use men of unclean lives. Before the mission the Launceston church was small, almost unknown, meeting in a hall of other than spiritual surroundings, but I have yet to hear one word against the character of any of them. Man despised their smallness, but God used their goodness. A small church that God can use will be a mighty power one day.

Following a foundation of good repute we consider the careful preparation for the mission second in importance. For a year Bro. Wilson had been talking and inspiring others to talk about the great things God was about to do for us. A week before the day to begin, large signs were placed in conspicuous places. Every house in the city was visited, and a card of invitation left behind. The newspapers were called into requisition, and half of all the big tent—a mighty advertisement—was pitched in the heart of the city. No pains were spared; electric light was installed, baptistry, six dressing rooms, and good platform arranged before the evangelist saw it, and all this assisted in the work of grace.

Then, as I think, in the third place we should place as a helper the bigness of our effort. The populace were compelled to respect a feeble folk of forty strong, with an audience never over seventy, who had the audacity to attempt a thing of such immensity. A common question was, "How will you manage it?" The world does not know the size of our plea. No, and brethren, we do not see it yet, else we should not cramp and pinch it into back streets and insignificant buildings. Some day we shall dream dreams and see visions and see the greatest plea of the ages, and then go forth in great fashion and big plan to world conquest. We planned on the grand scale at Launceston, and harvested as we sowed.

My fourth consideration is personal work. For the bulk of this we had to depend upon the new members, for the older ones generally were not of the type to attract men. But it was a grand sight to see sister lead

sister to Christ, young man his clamor, or as in one case a child her mother, or young lady her grandmother. Some of the brightest material won for the Master was that secured by personal contact.

Then we had much help which cannot be tabulated—visits from brethren to cheer, prayers from a multitude attending every day on our behalf. These and a score of other things all bent to one purpose gave us a grand time and glorious victory.

The tent is to come down; many are sorry. To hundreds it is hallowed canvas.

Tasmania's First Tent Mission.

By A. P. Wilson.

There are some peculiarities about this great effort that stand out in great prominence.

First: The attendance. The folk in attendance were of the best sort. Everyday working, respectable and thinking people. They were folk who were to be reached by thoughtful and logical addresses, and who were ready to respond to an invitation that had the assurance of common sense behind



New Launceston Chapel (formerly "Catholic Apostolic").

They would faint ever see "God is love" flutter from it, flagpole, but it must come down. We thank God we shall go out of Launceston church under continued favor from God will go on from victory to victory, ever we trust looking unto Jesus.

The task is not done; indeed, the work is just well begun. These new brothers and sisters will for a time need our prayer and our care, and thus we hope not to be weary but to press forward. We rejoice in One who is able to keep as well as to save, and churches may feel moved to look on that other field, look up to Christ, and then go in to possess the land.

It. The same folk attended night after night with unflinching regularity, and there was throughout an absolute absence of anything approaching to disorder. The attention was rapt, and I have seen many gatherings in buildings not as quiet or attentive. There were whole evenings when you could have heard the proverbial pin drop.

Second: The Converts. One could give instance after instance of where men and women simply came to confess. Christ as the result of earnest and lengthy consideration. The question of our position was freely discussed, with the inevitable result. Literature sold freely. "On the Rock" being a great favorite with all. The group photo reveals the character of those who came

forward," and gives a splendid prospect for the future of the church.

Third: The Advertising. The *Examiner* job office spared no pains. The manager was deeply interested, and whatever the office had we could get. It was our idea to put out some novelty every week, and to do



S. G. Griffith.

we drew upon every resource we could. The firm who hold the car ad. contract were especially good. They gave us twice as much advertising as we asked for, the extra free of cost to us.

Fourth: The activity of the new converts. No sooner did they come than they commenced work. Their friends, relations, workmates, heard the gospel, and though sometimes they made some rather distressing mistakes, the overflow of their joy was apparent, and their earnestness was unmis-



A Group of New Members, Launceston Mission.

takeable. One sister came herself, and was responsible for the whole family of adults coming and obeying the Lord. Bill distribution was actively engaged in by all, not only converts, though it was rather an anomaly for Methodist workers distributing our folders setting forth the claims of baptism.

Fifth: The remarks of outsiders. The mission is a puzzle still to the city. The message is so fresh—they call us the Bible Church, and if this is a human title it is the best we have ever had. The method of finance, the advertising, the singing, the preaching. Non-churchgoers of all sorts came simply to hear the singing and preaching, and their remarks were exceedingly gratifying.

Sixth: The Theatre Services. These were a new feature. The two evening services were splendidly attended, 1700 being present at each. Through the courtesy of Spencer's Co. we were able to go in on Saturday evening during the interval and announce to 2000 people the meeting, and also to placard the windows. We have consecrated that building to the service of God and the salvation of souls. And the singing! How they sang, "I am so happy in Jesus," "I shall look like the King." The tears would come sometimes as the voices echoed through the great building, and the sounds gradually subdued into silence as Bro. Griffith commenced to hold up Christ. For there is no doubt it was Christ's power operating through weakness and often inefficiency that caused the response that followed and shook this city as never before. Now pray God for another mission here in a few years' time.



Another Group of New Members, Launceston Mission.

"The Lord is thy keeper," means he will give thee that which is best for thee to have; he will make thee able to meet each new thing that happens; he will teach thee all needful wisdom and give thee all needful strength.—C. Cuthbert Hall.

Middle District Conference

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is for evangelistic purposes divided into three districts: the Northern, from Taikape to the top of the map, with Auckland as its centre; the Middle, from Taikape as far down as the top of the South Island, including Nelson, with Wellington as its centre; and the Southern District, with—well, I am not certain whether Christchurch or Dunedin is the centre of the hub, but you can take your choice. My report has to do with the Middle District, and let me say that the success of the Conference, and it was a success, rested very largely with the ladies. They looked well after the creature comforts of the delegates and visiting brethren. The arrangements for the Conference were simply splendid, and the brethren simply wild with one another in kindness.

Nelson is a seaport, just near the top of the South Island, and delegates from Wellington and the North have to pass over the water through the Straits, then through the French Pass. We had a beautiful journey down to Nelson; the weather was simply magnificent; but on the journey back, several were humiliated (the writer is much too modest to mention the name of one).

It was the seventeenth annual Conference, and it met in the beautiful new chapel at Nelson. S. J. Mathieson presided over the devotional service on Good Friday morning, and in a few thoughts emphasised the need for us to come into real personal communion with the living God.

A few words of welcome from F. V. Knapp to delegates and friends, and Bro. Milton Vickery was in the chair speaking words of hope for the coming year. There was at the last Conference, and our President, a feeling of pessimism, but the prospects for this year were very bright.

The following representatives were present:—

Kilbirnie: H. Coombe; Lower Moutere: F. Phillips; Palmerston North: S. P. Lang, F. J. Phillips; Palmerston North: Mrs. Carter; Petone: A. E. Wright; Richmond: G. Ross; Spring Grove: S. Ross; J. Griffiths; Takapu: W. Anglesoy, junr.; Wanganui: H. Smith; Wellington: G. Day, R. H. C. Kruse; Wellington South: D. Campbell, J. Bakeraal, M. Vickery. The following evangelists were present: Messrs. G. Verco, Nelson; S. J. Mathieson, L. Johnston, Palmerston North; Herbert Grinstead, Wanganui; E. Levin, Nelson.

S. Laing, Nelson, was appointed Minute Secretary, and Herbert Grinstead Press Reporter.

In the absence of R. Hill, Wellington, Bro. Geo. Day read the minutes of last Conference.

HOME MISSIONS.

The report of the Home Mission Committee spoke of the work at Palmerston North, and urged the need of a meeting place at once. They reported the success that had followed the efforts of the evan-

gelists who were loaned to them for one month during the year, and hoped that the practice might be continued. They recommended an effort to place an evangelist at Kilbirnie. Bro. Owen moved as an amendment Kilbirnie, Petone, and Lower Hutt, and the amendment was carried.

The church meeting at Levin was added to the list of churches co-operating. We understand that Bro. Little is going to reside there, and so hope for great things.

Finance.—In moving the adoption of the Balance Sheet, Bro. Campbell regretted that during the last year or two there had been a sort of mania for scattering the funds. Nelson had set up a District Conference, and the funds that used to be sent for Middle District work were being used for Nelson District work. The Middle District quite recognised the need for keeping an evangelist in the Nelson District, but he was assured that better work could be done by consolidation of funds. Another cause of constant friction and dislocation of funds was the existence in our midst of the C.W.B.M., and he strongly urged that whatever form our women's work takes, the funds should be gathered for the Evangelistic Committee elected by the representatives of the churches. A long discussion followed. Several Nelson brethren said they had no desire to part from the Middle District Conference, but they must go forward with their local work. Bro. Knapp was for the closer co-operation. Bro. Grinstead said it was an inevitable result of our work. District Conferences would be formed, and the annual general Conference would be the outcome. S. J. Mathieson agreed, but hoped that for a few years yet they would, whilst keeping their local Conference going, pool their funds. A special committee was set up of Nelson and Middle District brethren, and the resolution presented and adopted. It was also resolved that a Sisters' Conference be as many representative sisters as possible to the 1914 Conference at South Wellington.

The statistics showed a slight decrease in that it was more apparent than real.

Notices of motion now came on for consideration, and it was resolved that we do our very utmost to break down the present prohibition of the liquor traffic. Resolved, localities to send deputations to the various of or candidates for Parliament, demanding fair treatment in this respect. "It is intimated that before we can get No-License or five votes," said one speaker.

Lionel Johnston, Palmerston North, in an able speech, moved, That this Conference, whilst heartily supporting Bible reading in State Schools, is strongly opposed to the right being given to give denominational instruction. The resolution was seconded by F. V. Knapp, headmaster of the Girls' High School, Nelson, supported by Bro. Grinstead, and carried unanimously.

Bro. Grinstead moved, That we reaffirm the resolution of last Conference against compulsory military training now in force, as it is an intolerable interference with those guided by the teachings of Christ and his apostles. John Griffiths seconded. After a short, sharp encounter, the vote was taken. It resulted in a tie. Bro. Milton Vickery gave his casting vote in favor of the resolution.

Thanks were given to the retiring Committee, special references being made to the splendid services that R. Hill had rendered to the churches.

The following are the Home Mission Committee and Executive for 1913-14:—

President, M. Vickery.
Vice-President, George Day.
Treasurer, Bro. Campbell.
Secretary, H. Coombe; and Bren. H. Caham, A. Hardham, C. Kruse and A. V. Williams.

There was a large attendance at the Home Mission rally. Bro. Vickery presided. The subject was "Palmerston North." Bro. Johnston spoke on its past, A. E. Wright delivered a very clever address on the present needs, and Bro. Grinstead had an easy task to make an appeal for the Palmerston North Building Fund, which was very liberally responded to. We could not be certain of anything, but we could reasonably expect that with a decent building Bro. Johnston would do a great deal more good work.

Bro. Grinstead spoke very highly of the sacrifices the P.N. brethren were making. The choir, under the leadership of S. Laing, rendered some beautiful anthems.

FOREIGN MISSION DAY.

After a short devotional service led by F. J. Phillips, R. Hall, the President of the F.M.C., took the chair, and in a few words showed the greatness of the work we were attempting to do in South Africa. He strongly emphasised the need of keeping things in hand. The other Conferences in their enthusiasm had in his judgment gone too far, and the work was now almost more than we could sustain.

The report told of good work done by Bro. and Sister Anderson at Bulawayo, and Bren. Hadfield and Mansill with their devoted wives at the new station, Inyanga.

During the sitting telegrams were read telling of the drought in South Africa, and the terrible straits our missionaries were in. It was decided that a special offering be taken up at the rally, and that the churches be asked to take up an offering at once for the fund.

Saturday evening we had a Foreign Mission rally. George Day spoke on our mission fields in the past. Bro. Grinstead on the present, and Bro. Verco on the future.

The following are the F.M. Committee for 1913-14:—

President, R. Hall; Treas., H. Owen; Sec., Sister Miss Masters, with Sister Mackenzie, and Bro. S. H. Mudge, D. Campbell, J. Day, and O. Johnston.

Special services were held in the Nelson and district churches. Bro. Hall presided over the morning meeting, and Bro. Milton Vickery exhorted the brethren. An afternoon service for young people was held, at which Bro. Grinstead presided. Interesting talks were given by Bro. Hall, Wellington, and Sister Carter, Palmerston North. Bro. Grinstead preached the gospel to a crowded chapel on Sunday evening.

BIBLE SCHOOL DAY.

Easter Monday was spent in consideration of the Committee's report, which was presented by Bro. Percy Boddington. Bro. Knapp presided.

The following is a brief resume of the year's work:—

In accordance with a resolution passed at Conference, all the schools were circulated, to supporting the work among the native children at the Income Missions, South Africa. We were only able to get definite replies from two schools, although we believe most schools are supporting the work.

An examination, arranged on five lessons on First Principles, was held in October. Bro. and Sister Langford, of Christchurch, were the examiners. There were 86 entries from seven schools, and there were 45 competitors. The examiners reported the papers to be very satisfactory, and over 73 per cent. obtained 50 per cent. of marks. The examination was arranged with four grades. Prizes and three classes of certificates were awarded. The funds for this examination were sub-scribed by various churches.

An Advisory Committee was set up in the Wellington district, comprising four members, and one meeting was held. Great difficulty was experienced in finding the members for this Committee. We desire to express our appreciation to Bro. H. Colburn for his help in this matter.

We have this year arranged to have papers prepared for the afternoon session of the Conference on Bible School subjects, which we hope will be the means of helping the schools in their work.

The financial affairs of the Union have not been all that could be desired, owing to some of the schools not having paid their affiliation fees till late in the year.

In conclusion, we trust that the schools will give a more interested support to the work of this Union, so that under the blessing and guidance of God a greater and more united work may be accomplished in this district.

The following resolutions were moved and adopted:—

Bro. Vickery moved, That the desirability of affiliating the Bible School Union with the Middle District be referred to the schools for their consideration; That the Bible School Executive arrange for a teaching demonstration during the Conference sittings; That an annual collection be taken up on one day in the year, for the establishing of Bible Schools in the back blocks.

The afternoon session was devoted to an interesting and instructive address on the

graded lessons, along with a most helpful address by S. H. Mathieson on winning our scholars for Christ. We are delighted to think that Bro. Mathieson is improving in health, and we pray for a full recovery.

The evening was devoted to a thanksgiving service. We re-affirmed the resolutions passed on Saturday night of thanks to the Nelson brethren for their kindness and hospitality. G. D. Verco presided, and short addresses were delivered by L. Johnston, P. Bolton, H. Siddall, and our aged Bro. Lewis. This was brought to an end a most interesting and profitable Conference. Many of the Wellington District delegates left for

their homes on Monday night, and those who stayed until Tuesday morning wished very pathetically that they had gone too, but the least said about the journey across the water the better.

The following are the Bible School Committee for 1913-14:—

President, Bro. Knapp; Vice-President, Bro. Verco; Treasurer, Bro. Phillips; Secretary, Bro. Percy Boddington; and Bro. J. C. Bolton, E. Tucker, P. Bolton, W. Bell.

The next Conference will be held at St. Hill, Wellington.

Southern District Conference

NEW ZEALAND.

HOME MISSIONS.

The 28th annual Conference of the Churches of Christ of the Southern District of New Zealand was commenced on Friday morning, March 21, in the Medway-st. church, Gore. T. J. Bull, Mataura, president, and the Secretary of the Conference was J. R. Clarke, Gore. Representatives were present from Christchurch, Ashburton, Oamaru, Dunedin, South Dunedin, Mornington (Dunedin), Brunside, Kaitangata, Gore, Mataura and Invercargill. Greetings were conveyed to the Conferences of the Northern and Middle Districts.

Following the President's address the Home Mission Committee's report was presented by the chairman of the Committee, C. Fleming McDonald. This stated that during the past year the Ashburton and Gore churches had been assisted, and a matter for gratitude was the success of the work at Gore, where the church was being firmly planted, and every department showed healthy progress. The membership at December 31, 1912, was 84, an increase of 10 for year. The Committee commended these churches to the continued sympathy and support of the Conference. The work at Kaitangata had been cared for by the Christian Women's Board of Missions, who had located there as evangelist J. Binney. Regret at the recent departure to Australia of Bro. Binney was expressed, but the Committee had occasion to rejoice over the choice of a successor in N. Noble. In January a mission at Kaitangata was conducted by H. G. Harward, J. Binney, and N. Noble and the church roll was increased by about 40 members.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

After the devotional service, followed by the roll call of delegates and the reading of the minutes of the last Conference, Bro. Bull delivered the President's address. The basis of his remarks might be said to be found in the words, "He that cometh to God must be sure that he is and that he is the rewarder of them that seek after him." Herein, he said, could be found the reason why men of the past had lived heroically and victoriously: they were sure of God. When apparently they had not been sure of him, experience pointed out that they had not been living on the high levels. God is our refuge and strength—a refuge from ourselves, from sin, from failure. "God is able" is another New Testament statement, and one which perfectly parallels that of the Psalmist that God is our strength. While being sure of God does not make life easy it makes possible things that otherwise would be impossible. Every day man has need of divine power. With regard to association, as is the individual so is the association of churches; and the very secret of the high standard of church life and of successful evangelistic work consists in getting up the great mass of the church membership to the great praying members. There would there be in them that power which would impress others about them, and enable them to do the work God has for them to do.

Thanks were due to J. M. Routledge for his interest in the church at Brunside, and to A. Roy for faithful services as correspondent to isolated members. H. G. Harward was stationed at Oamaru up till January, but throughout the year he had been uniting in his efforts to assist in Home Mission work. His services as corresponding secretary and as editor of the *Evangelical Messenger*, his visitation of the churches, a week's mission at Gore and finally the mission at Kaitangata would continue to bear fruit long after he has left New Zealand. Receipts for the year were £207 13/8, and expenditure was £180 8/11.

FINANCE.

A change was made in the date of taking up the annual offering this year, it having been decided at last Conference to fall into line with all the other Australasian churches and make the first Lord's day in February Home Mission Offering Day.

It was hoped to bring before Conference a recommendation as to some forward movement for the future, but in view of the present condition of the finances, consideration of this matter was left to Conference.

Receipt of £25 from the trustees of the Ellmore Bequest was gratefully acknowledged.

The report was adopted.

The Secretary was directed to express to Captain C. F. Sundström the appreciation of the Conference for his services over a number of years as a member of the Home Mission Committee. The election of the Home Mission Committee resulted: Chairman, P. D. McCallum; Secretary, L. C. J. Schultenborg; Treasurer, J. M. Routledge; Associate Members, C. Fleming McDonald, J. W. Stokes, W. H. Palmer and T. Cairns. Mrs. H. Langford, Christchurch, was appointed correspondent to isolated members.

H. G. Harward reported as follows:—

While acting as evangelist for the church at Oamaru, a Bible outside service has been performed on behalf of the Committee. During April 14 churches were visited in the interests of the Home Mission offering, and 16 addresses delivered. A six days' mission was held at Gore for five weeks in May, nine addresses being delivered and three confessions of Christ. Visits were paid to Hazpoun and 18 week-end services conducted, with small but interested audiences. One of them was made to Timaru, but local conditions did not make it possible to do anything of a permanent character. During the year the printed matter for the Golden Offering for Home Missions for 1912 and 1913 was prepared and sent out. For six months the pleasure of editing the Conference paper, the *Evangelical Messenger*, has been enjoyed, and we hope without profit to its readers. Our period of service under the Committee closed with a mission at Kaitangata, held in conjunction with the C.W.R.M. exhorters, Bro. Noble and Binney. The mission extended from Jan. 19 to Feb. 19. Thirty-nine addresses were delivered, and there were 17 decisions for Christ.

In retiring from the work of the Conference, I desire to express my appreciation of many kind notes received from members and prayerful co-operation given in the Bible. I have been enabled to do, not without regret do I leave this so needy field.

N.B.—Bro. Binney and Noble continued the Kaitangata Mission for four nights, with 18 decisions, making 35 in all, about 25 families being represented.

BIBLE SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE.

In the afternoon a Bible Schools' Union Conference was held, C. Fleming McDonald presiding. After welcoming delegates, the chairman made reference to the gratifying prominence now given to the Sunday School work by the churches. When a new church building was to be erected, the matter of accommodation for the Sunday School was one of the first considerations. The support of the Committee was presented by W. E. Powell, Secretary. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:—President, C. Fleming McDonald; Vice-President, P. D. McCallum; Secretary, W. E. Powell; Treasurer, W. H. Palmer; Committee, Mrs. C. F. McDonald, Miss A. Sell, T. J. Melville. The Conference placed on record its appreciation of and thanks to the retiring Committee for services rendered to the schools during the year.

BIBLE CLASS WORK.

P. D. McCallum, Dunedin, read a paper upon "The Organised Bible Class." He touched upon the sub-topics of the name, officers and their duties, committees and meetings, and went on to deal with methods of procedure, subjects for discussion, and distribution of fund. "Why married people should attend the Bible School," was the subject of an essay delivered by Mrs. C. Fleming McDonald, Dunedin, attention being given to the influence that parents can wield in this way and to the preparation given for the great responsibility placed upon them in the training of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The third essay was upon "The Home Department," and was read by N. G. Noble, Kaitangata. Through this department, which is intended for those who, through duty, distance, or age, cannot attend the Bible School, many regularly study the Bible who otherwise would not, and the family altar is restored in many homes. It includes the church in the Bible School, and develops Christian workmanship. Profitable discussion followed the reading of the papers, and at the conclusion the essayists were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

HOME MISSION RALLY.

A tea meeting took place at 6 p.m., and at 7.30 was held a Home Mission rally. This was presided over by Bro. McDonald. N. G. Noble, Kaitangata, delivered an address upon "The Supreme Motive," the basic text of which was "The love of Christ constraineth us." Consideration to the strengthening of the base was given by P. D. McCallum, who spoke upon "The Supreme Need," while R. Gebbie, of Christchurch, dwelt upon "The Supreme Purpose," which was that all may be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. The programme was interspersed with musical items.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Foreign Mission work occupied the first attention of the Conference on Saturday morning.

In the Foreign Mission Committee's report it was stated that Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Bluff for South Africa on May 13, 1912, though a tour of all the churches in the interests of the work in South Africa. As a year, the receipts for the churches this were £458/8/10, being an increase of £88 Zealand were £177/13/9. Since Bro. Hadfield's return to South Africa, a new station has been opened at Ingonie, necessitating a rearrangement of the staff at Bulawayo. Intini, now an out-station, is looked after by another native teacher under Bro. Anderson's direction. At Ingonie are stationed Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Hadfield and Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Mansill. A serious drought

had, however, interfered with the progress of the work undertaken at this latter centre. The annual expense of maintaining the mission is now £773. This includes a subsidy which is paid to Forest Vale station, carried on under the care of John Sherrill and assistants.

The report and financial statement were supplemented by a verbal report presented by J. Inglis Wright, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Union of the Churches of Christ in New Zealand. The report was enthusiastically received and adopted.

The Foreign Mission Committee elected was: Chairman, J. Inglis Wright; Secretary, J. L. S. Wright; Treasurer, T. J. Melville; Committee, H. Holmes, S. McDonald, C. Miller, Mrs. T. Brown.

A message was directed to be conveyed to Bro. Hadfield and his co-laborers expressive of recognition of the heroic services of the missionaries and of sympathy with them under the present trying circumstances.

Statistics showed church membership: December 31, 1912, 1569, a decrease of 39 from last year; Bible School scholars, 102 (including 314 Bible Class members), an increase of 67; number of teachers, 122 (11 more), 46 Bible School scholars entered the church last year.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

At the sitting of the Conference on Saturday afternoon it was decided that copies of the amended constitution of the Conference be printed and distributed among the churches.

A report and financial statement with respect to the churches' monthly publication, *The Evangelical Messenger*, was placed before the Conference, and adopted. T. J. Bluff was appointed editor, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded H. G. Harward for past valued services as editor.

The next Conference will be held at Christchurch. The Conference Executive elected was: President, H. Langford; Vice-President, R. Gebbie; Secretary and Treasurer, Bro. Mason.

The Conference expressed its sympathy with all legitimate means taken for the suppression of the liquor traffic.

The essayist appointed for next year was T. J. Melville.

C. Fleming McDonald brought before the Conference the objects and aims of the Dominion Church Extension Board, and solicited the interest and support of the churches when the annual offering for this fund is taken up.

About 4 o'clock the Conference essay upon "A Blissful Burden," by C. A. Pat, was read and discussed.

FOREIGN MISSION RALLY.

On Saturday evening a Foreign Mission rally was held, presided over by J. Inglis Wright, General Secretary of the Foreign Mission Union of the Churches of Christ in New Zealand. The chairman outlined the

scope of the work being carried on in Southern Rhodesia and the difficulties and hard-ships encountered in undertaking the new mission station at Ingome. The response made for funds for the general needs of the work and for the expenses of opening up the new field was a matter for much gratification. Other speakers were T. J. Bull and T. J. Melville. Over £30 was raised in the meeting towards a drought relief fund.

On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, Mrs.

C. F. McDonald addressed a meeting of Junior Endeavorers.

At the 11 a.m. service for worship, P. D. McCallum, Dunedin, exhorted, and in the evening at the Town Hall the Conference Sermon was preached by Ralph Gobbie, of Christchurch, whose subject was "The Mastery of Jesus."

Delegates were driven to Croydon on Easter Monday, and enjoyed a picnic held there.

Uniformity of Names.—That in the opinion of this Conference, a uniformity of names should obtain among the various auxiliaries of the churches. This was moved by Bro. Stitt, and was supported by the brethren. It was felt that a move in this direction would not be unwise, in view of the rapidly increasing multiplication of names that are gathering around the various auxiliaries. This matter was left in the hands of the Executive.

Letters of Transfer.—The Home Mission Committee recommended to Conference: "That church secretaries keep in touch with each other, for the purpose of preventing leakage of members among those who migrate." It was suggested that when a member leaves one district, the secretary write direct to the church in the district to which the member anticipates going; also that each member receive a duplicate letter and a list of the churches within the State. Bro. Rodger moved, "That this take effect immediately, and that the Conference Secretary write notifying church secretaries of the same."

STATE EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Bro. Bignill gave a stirring address upon "What? What have we done? It was a personal matter, and touched our relation to the work of evangelising Queensland. A map of our fair State, hung up before us, with a few dark dots, indicating the positions of our churches, spoke more eloquently than words of how little has been accomplished, and how utterly we have failed to realise our responsibility. However, it has enlarged our vision, showing us that there is still much land to be possessed.

1. Gole then in a thoughtful and helpful address dealt with "How?" How are we to further evangelise Queensland? The speaker in setting out his method of procedure emphasised these four points:—1. Educational. He (the speaker) particularly impressed upon evangelists, speaking brethren and church officers, the need of intelligent instruction. 2. Control or direction. It was imperative that we elect our very best men on the Home Mission Committee. 3. Co-operation. a. In extending knowledge and awakening interest in State mission work, and the need of parts not yet opened up. b. In supporting that work by giving. 4. Concentration of effort. Bro. Gole pointed out that to-day is an age of combining and concentrating effort, energy and forces.

A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Gole and Bignill for their able and interesting talks.

FEDERAL EVANGELIST.

The reading of a letter from the Federal Executive, stating that Bro. Griffith will be available for Queensland during the months of June and July was the cause of much gladness. The discussion that followed was characterised by a spirit of unity. One brother rose and said, "Brethren, let us have more faith in God." The atmosphere was electrified, and everybody caught the flame. Optimism was then the prevailing note, and the chord struck at that session was main-

Queensland Conference

The annual Conference of the Churches of Christ was held in the Christian chapel, Toowoomba, on Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22.

TEMPERANCE RALLY.

Thursday evening, the chapel was the scene of a grand Temperance rally. There was a good attendance, and Bro. Barnard, of Ma Ma Creek, occupied the chair.

The chairman introduced Bro. Forbes, of the Albion church, who delivered a straight talk upon the evil effects of alcohol.

The musical part of the programme was supplied by the Toowoomba friends, also an amusing and instructive dialogue, entitled, "Run in Tea." At the close of the meeting, Bro. Rodger, of Rosewood, engaged in prayer.

FRIDAY'S SESSIONS.

At 9.30 a.m., a devotional meeting was held, under the leadership of Bro. Clarke. A number of brethren took part in this inspiring and helpful meeting.

At 10 o'clock, Bro. W. Saehling, Vice-President, took the chair, and opened the proceedings with prayer.

ROLL CALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Brisbane: Mills, A. H. Cane, Nightingale. Albion: Forbes, Stitt. Bonnah: Stubbin. Bundamba: Green. Ipswich: Want, Ma Ma Creek: Barnard and Larsen. Mt. Walker: J. J. Henriksen, Marling; Penny. Maryborough: J. W. Smith. Rosewood: W. Berlin. Rosevale: H. U. Rodger. Roma: I. R. Pittman. Tamymorel: F. Keable. Toowoomba: Quire, Parsons, Clarke. Zillmere: Fischer, Stale.

Bro. Forbes, of Albion, was appointed press correspondent.

The President gave a warm welcome to the delegates and visitors, expressing the hope that the Conference would be a time of refreshing and mutual helpfulness.

Warmly appreciated greetings were received from N.S.W. Conference; Federal F.M. Committee; Queensland boys in College of the Bible; West Moreton Sisters' Conference; Bro. Hutson, Parkes, Rose and Hayes.

STATISTICS.

As some of the churches failed to send in the statistical report, we were unable to give a correct statement. However, the needed information was forthcoming, although late, and showed progress. The losses were: By letter, 38; death, 9; withdrawal, or lost sight of, 26; total, 83. The gains were: By immersion, 76; letter, 65; restored, 8; other sources, 13; total, 162. Net increase, 78.

FINANCE.

We began the year with £42/8/5 in hand; our receipts for mission work amounted to £89/17/3; or with the amount carried over from the General Expenses Account, £96 2/3; our expenditure has been £68/14/6, leaving us with a credit balance of £29 16/2. The income for 1912 was only about half of that contributed in the previous year, and was a disappointment to the Committee. The average per member was 1/9 per year. This must be altered in the coming twelve months if the Committee are to attempt any great things for the Master. Our income should not be less than £250, which amount would be a comparatively easy matter for the brotherhood to raise if each church and each member realised their responsibility and the State's need. The Committee recommend the active canvass of the membership of the churches in the interest of the fund for State work, and of the introduction of an offering of not less than one penny per week from every member, and better organisation for the annual offering for Home Missions.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

There were six notices of motion tabled for discussion at this session. Some called forth voluminous discussion, and were then negatived. Others called out fruitful and helpful suggestions.

Building Fund.—Bro. Stitt moved, That the Churches of Christ in Queensland should inaugurate a Church Building Fund, such fund to be set apart for the purpose of assisting those churches desirous of erecting places of worship. The motion was warmly received, and spoken to by a number of the brethren. A committee was then appointed to draw up a workable scheme and set the thing in motion.

tained to the close of the Conference. We believe that this Conference has marked a new era in the experience of the Queensland churches.

It was unanimously decided to invite Bro. Griffith to Queensland.

Bro. Fisher moved, and Bro. Rodger seconded, "That the controlling and financing of the proposed evangelistic campaign be left in the hands of the I.M. Committee, the churches pledging themselves to support the movement."

STATE EVANGELIST.

This question evoked a discussion of an educational character, viz., the class of man Queensland needs. Queensland has difficulties peculiar to itself. It was agreed that Queensland does not want, at this juncture, the orthodox State evangelist, but an organising secretary, whose work would consist of linking up isolated brethren and organising them into churches, and helping the weak causes.

A motion was carried, empowering the Executive to secure the services of a man for this work.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Executive: President, W. Suchting; Vice-President, W. Wendorf; Secretary, F. A. Bignill; Asst. Sec., A. E. Forbes; Treasurer, I. Cole. Committee: W. Nightingale, T. F. Stubbin, H. U. Rodger, H. C. Stitt, W. Berlin, A. Barnard, G. Green.

HOME MISSION RALLY.

On Friday evening at 7.30 the Home Mission rally commenced. The Conference President took the chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

Sister Greenwood sang, "I'll never forsake thee," after which Bro. Barnard delivered a telling address on "Does Queensland Need Christ?" After an item by the Toowoomba church choir, Bro. Forbes spoke on "Does Christ Need Queensland?"

Toowoomba choir rendered "My Jesus, as Thou Wilt."

Bro. Nightingale then took up the question, "What Should We Do?" "We should do more," said the speaker, "and do better."

SATURDAY'S SESSIONS. FOREIGN MISSIONS.

E. Bulgin occupied the chair. The session opened with prayer.

This year, as a State, working with the Federal Committee, we set as our aim the sum of £250. We regret that this amount was not reached, as it should be within easy reach of the State brotherhood. Our actual offerings amounted to £182, a falling off of a little over £70 on the figures of the previous year; many things may have contributed, notably the severe season that parts of the country experienced, and the industrial upheaval which affected almost everyone; still, with good prospects of a splendid year ahead, it should be within our powers to pass our aim of £250, which we place before the churches in Queensland for 1913. We recommend that active preparation be made for the July offering, that a worthy response may be made by every member.

The report and balance sheet were adopted on the motion of Bro. Cole.

Bro. Rodger gave an excellent address on Foreign Missions.

BIBLE SCHOOL UNION.

After lunch, the President occupied the chair.

The Secretary, in presenting this first annual report of the Union, expressed regret that only a few of the schools, eight in all, had made application for affiliation, showing a total of 437 scholars.

An examination was held the first week in December; four schools, representing 29 scholars, competed, only two failing to gain certificates, Wallumbilla doing exceptionally well, three competing and gaining two first prizes.

Bro. Cole moved the reception of the report. Bro. Stubbin seconded. Both brethren expressed appreciation of the work done by the Committee, it being recognised the work was difficult, being in its initial stage.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS.

Bro. Nightingale dealt with this subject in a masterly manner. "We must," said the speaker, "get away from the idea that the Bible School was a place for children and a few adults in the capacity of teachers." It was a place for adults also. First, let us get a vision of the possibilities of the Adult Class. It is a fruitful field for evangelism. Great Bible Classes do not happen; they are the result of hard work. To secure and hold the attention of adults we require: 1. A competent teacher, one who knows the Book; a teacher who understands human nature. 2. Organisation; appoint committees, find work for all. 3. Good accommodation. 4. Cultivate sociability. 5. Have good music. 6. Advertise; let the people know. Have an aim, and do not give up. Bro. Rose, of Boonah, had been asked to speak upon "Child Psychology." Being unable to attend, he sent the paper by Bro. Stubbin, who read it most ably.

It was moved that a vote of thanks in the form of a letter be sent to Bro. Rose.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

At this stage, the members on the Foreign Mission Committee were elected: Bro. Nightingale, Forbes, Green, Cane, Stabe, Bulgin, Berlin.

AN APPRECIATION.

Bro. Keable, of Tannymorel, moved, "That this Conference place on record its appreciation of the generous hospitality shown by the Toowoomba brethren to both delegates and visitors." Supported by Bro. Stubbin, of Boonah, and carried with acclamation.

BIBLE COLLEGE.

Bro. Nightingale spoke eulogistically of its work. The preparation of young men for the service of the Master, in the home north and fields afar, is a grand work, and is worthy of our prayers and support.

At this juncture many of the delegates made a hasty tea, and hurried away to their respective stations.

FOREIGN MISSION RALLY.

This was a time of inspiration. Bro. Quire occupied the chair. Two speakers failed to be present, but Bro. Bignill and Stubbin stepped into the breach and gave very helpful talks. Bro. Bulgin also gave an address upon the subject, which proved instructive and helpful.

Queensland Sisters' Conference.

A meeting of sisters was held in Toowoomba on Good Friday for the purpose of forming a State Conference.

Sister Clapham spoke of the advisability of all sisters uniting in Conference.

Sister Berlin stated that for the past fourteen years the sisters had met regularly in Conference in the West Moreton circuit. Distance prevented them meeting very often, each sister doing steady work in the respective churches. The sisters' penny-per-week contributions this year amounted to £12/14/3, an increase of over £1 for the preceding year. They were willing to co-operate with all sisters in any work undertaken for the extension of the Master's kingdom.

Delegates present: Brisbane, Sisters Clapham, Nightingale, Banner; Toowoomba, Sisters Quire, Greenwood; Ma Ma Creek, Sister Sherman; Gympie, Sister McCallum; West Moreton, Sister Berlin, Lamprecht; Isolated, Sisters Flett, Chinchilla, and Sharp from Moonee River, Tara. Sister Berlin was asked to act as secretary *pro tem*.

Election of officers resulted as follows:—Hon. Pres., Sister Clapham, Brisbane; Pres., Sister Mrs. Nightingale, Brisbane; Vice-Pres., Sister Mrs. Berlin, Rosewood; Recording Secretary, Sister Mrs. Haigh, Brisbane; Corresponding Secretary, Sister Mrs. Stabe, Zillmere; Treasurer, Sister Mrs. Green, Albion; Superintendents: Home Mission, Sister Clapham; Foreign Mission, Sister Mrs. Turner; Prayer Meeting, Sister Mrs. Quire; Hospital Visitation, Sister Mrs. Grant; Temperance, Sister Mrs. Larsen; Dorcas, Sister Mrs. Banner; Bible School, Sister Mrs. Suchting; Chorus, Sister Mrs. Moffatt; Isolated Sisters, Sister Mrs. Windsor; New Arrivals, Sister Mrs. Nightingale.

Decided to adopt same Constitution as used by New South Wales sisters. Annual meeting to be held on Thursday afternoon before Good Friday. Executive to meet quarterly. Greetings were read from New South Wales sisters, also from West Moreton sisters. Our isolated sisters were cordially welcomed, and words of encouragement given. Our sisters said how pleased they were to meet the sisters that afternoon. Sister Sharp had been a member of Prahran church before coming to Queensland.

Toowoomba's Dorcas report as follows: Class in existence 7 years; 10 active and 13 honorary members; 22 meetings held during year; 10 dozens of material made up; decided to make up garments for Foreign fields. A parcel has been sent to the Brodrick Home, also to a needy case; Ma Ma Creek sisters have sold over £5 worth of garments; sisters helping in many ways to relieve needy cases. Brisbane Dorcas reported: 22 meetings held; average attendance, 8 members; made two hospital garments; presented the church with a nice new table cover; also donated £2 towards building fund; helped a needy case; deaconsess

worked well; 480 visits to sick and absent members; balance in hand, £1/5/0/2.

After some further discussion on matters relating to the work, the President pronounced the benediction.—Eleanor Berlin, Sec., *pro tem.*

N.S.W. Sisters' Conference.

The Sisters' nineteenth annual Conference was held in the Tabernacle, Enmore, on March 19. There was a good attendance at all the sessions, and all agreed that it was a good Conference.

The morning session opened by a devotional meeting led by Mrs. Clydesdale. Hymn; minutes of last session; correspondence; letter from Mrs. Clapham; roll call of delegates; hymn; notice of motion by Mrs. Ashwood.

Election of officers as follows:—Mrs. Fox, President; Mrs. Andrews, Cor. Sec.; Mrs. Morris, Recording Sec.; Mrs. Morrison, Treas.; Vice-Presidents, Sisters Rusli, Jones, Farr. Snps.—Home Mission, Prayer Meeting, Mrs. Batt; Dorcas, Mrs. Williams; Hospital, Mrs. Potter; Temperance, Mrs. Campbell; Foreign Mission, Mrs. Hindle; Isolated Members, Miss Marshall; Obituary, Mrs. Batt; Catering, Mrs. Morris; Press Correspondent, Mrs. Shearston; Social, Mrs. Logan.

After hymn was sung, we adjourned for lunch. Afternoon session devotional led by Miss Marshall; solo, Miss Swain; welcome greetings, Mrs. Hingsworth, responded to from Sister Green, England; Sister Haverland, South Australia; hymn; minutes morning session. The President gave a nice address on sisters' work in our Conference. Mrs. Andrews gave a good Executive report. Mrs. Morrison-Treasurer, reported. The roll was then called, answered by the following churches:—Auburn, Rookwood, Petersham, Enmore, Erskineville, Sydney, Belmore, Paddington, Lilyville, Mo-man, North Sydney, Hornsby, Lismore, Merewether, Katoomba. Hymn. Freewill offering, £3/4/. An essay which was much enjoyed, by Mrs. Batt, "Sanctification." Solo, Mrs. Shearston. Superintendents of departments reported. Solo, Mrs. Ball. Mrs. Rusli was asked to write essay for our next Conference. Adjourned for tea.

Evening session, devotional led by Mrs. Collins-Hymn. Diet, Sisters Starr and Rusli. Greetings from General Conference. Quartet, Enmore members. Reception, Miss Forscutt, much enjoyed. Solo, Mrs. T. Andrews. Paper written by Mrs. Dudley, "For Others," was nicely read by Mrs. Fins Coleman. S. S. Miss Dale. Address, Bro. Franklin. Solo, Mrs. Shearston. Introduction of officers by Mrs. Jones. Hymn; prayer; benediction. A vote of thanks was passed to all who had helped to make our meetings a success, and to City Temple for allowing us use of their building to hold our meetings during the year. Accompanist, Mrs. Mitchellhill.

Sisters' first monthly meeting held in City Temple, March 28, Mrs. Fox presiding. Sisters Russell and E. Coleman led in prayer. Secretary read W.A. greetings, which came too late for Conference. Bills were passed for payment. Sisters Fox, Hingsworth and Hindle were appointed on G.C. Foreign Mission Committee. First prayer meeting was decided to be held at Paddington, on April 15. Mrs. Green, visitor, welcomed. One motion was voted towards "Christian." Meeting closed with hymn and prayer.—E. Shearston.

Federal Union for Sunday School Workers.

The resolution of the Federal Conference, 1912, for the formation of a "Federal Union of Sunday School Executives" in the various States which was referred to the South Australian Union, has been given very serious consideration, and the matter was sent on to the State Unions or Committees. After further thought, G. D. Wright, of the S.A. Executive, was asked to give a paper setting out a basis for a Federal Union. This excellent paper was endorsed by the South Australian Union, and is sent to the States' Executives for their earnest consideration and further replies to the South Australian Executive. The paper referred to is set out hereunder.—A. L. Read, S.A. State Sec.

In considering the subject of federation in connection with Sunday School work, three questions are at once suggested:—

1. Whether any advantages are to be gained.
2. Whether the time is opportune.
3. Whether the scheme is practical.

In regard to the first, Federation would certainly lead to greater efficiency in Sunday School work by bringing the workers into close touch with each other, and the consequent exchange of thoughts, ideas and methods.

It would also bring about greater uniformity than exists at present; not that we advocate all schools being made in any one pattern; it is a matter of greatest importance that freedom of thought and action should be exercised in the management of each school in matters that are affected by local conditions; but there are many questions where Federal uniformity would be a distinct gain, and we will briefly touch on some of these which can only be realised by federation.

Name.—At present some of our schools are known as Sunday Schools, and others as Bible Schools. Both are good names, but as a body of Christian people who plead for unity, it is time that every school adopted the same name.

Graded Lessons.—This question is important. There are various systems of lessons now adopted, graded or otherwise, but as the graded lessons will be the system of the future a Federal Executive to advise schools of the best lessons to adopt would be a great assistance to the schools concerned, and would lead to greater uniformity in our teaching.

Examinations.—This question naturally follows that of graded lessons. At present the State Scriptural Examinations entail a great amount of labor upon various brethren in every State. One set of questions for the Commonwealth would probably lead to a healthy rivalry between the competitors of the various States and save a great deal of work which is at present duplicated.

Sunday School Day.—What an impetus and encouragement to Sunday School workers to realize that on a given Sunday every church throughout the Commonwealth was making special efforts to interest church members, parents and scholars in Sunday School work—a day when the united prayers of the brotherhood throughout Australia were ascending to the throne of grace on behalf of the boys and girls in our land, a day of special opportunity given to arouse many Christians from their apathy and indifference regarding the winning and holding the young people of our great country for Jesus Christ—a day when through the scholars a special effort would be made to reach parents away from God—a day when our church services would be especially adapted to our young people, and when a great offering

would be collected for assisting in the development and extension of the Sunday School work generally.

Music.—The schools badly need a suitable Sunday School hymnal. A carefully compiled Sunday School hymn book would be welcomed by all, and scholars leaving one district would be impressed with a sense of unity if we adopted uniform harmony in our singing exercises.

Literature.—A monthly Sunday School magazine is also a question worthy of serious consideration. A bright, pithy paper, issued at a nominal cost to the schools, and taken by the scholars into their homes, would be a splendid opportunity of interesting the parents in our work and bring before them the plea with which we stand identified.

Sunday School Organizer.—So far the efforts of the separate States have not been successful in appointing an expert organizer; and although there is no doubt room in each State for such a man, until such a condition of things is possible, a Federal Executive could do splendid work in appointing a Federal Organizer whose work could be divided among the States requiring his services.

When is the Opportune Time? When all the States are agreeable. There can of course be no compulsion. At present there is only one State that has expressed itself adverse to the proposal, and no doubt this State would come into line on learning that all the others were favorably inclined.

The suggestions we have already made point to the desirability of federation at an early date; it is possible to wait too long for the opportune time. It is preferable for the various States to get into closer touch in the early days of our Sunday School work and experience that we might grow and develop unitively rather than wait until each State has formed its own definite line of procedure, which might lead them further apart in the future; and no noble federation more difficult.

Our third point is whether the scheme is practical. We realize that difficulties abound through the various capitals being so far distant from each other, but three disadvantages can no doubt be overcome. We suggest that delegates appointed from each State meet at the next Federal Conference to discuss the question, a full day being set apart before the regular Conference session. At this gathering a Federal Executive be appointed, and the suggested programme of work be adopted. To meet the financial needs likely to accrue in carrying out Federal work, we suggest that a percentage of the money received in the various States from the offering on Sunday School day be handed over to the Federal Executive.

This is but a brief outline of what we consider a practical basis in bringing our schools throughout Australia in closer touch and to all us to get a larger vision of the great work of the Sunday School, so that we can see beyond our local surroundings, and be satisfied with nothing less than winning the young people of Australia for Jesus Christ.—G. D. Wright.

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[Correspondents are requested to condense their reports as much as possible]

South Australia.

NORTH ADELAIDE—Thursday evening, April 6, before the members of the Mutual Improvement Society and friends, E. W. Pittman gave an interesting and instructive lecture on "Music and How it is Made," with illustrations on the organ. He also presented a march he had composed and dedicated to the Society. At the close the lecturer was cheerfully accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Lord's day morning, April 9, Bro. Frank Clark was welcomed into the church by letter of commendation from Grote-st. church.—V.M.T., April 7.

QUEENSTOWN—Tuesday evening, March 18, the church tendered to Bro. Richard Harris and family a social to celebrate the completion of 21 years' service as secretary of the church. Bro. Brooker took the chair, and paid tribute to the merits of our brother, and testified to the great assistance the secretary had been to him during his eight years' labor as exemplar, and concluded by asking Bro. Harris to accept from the church a blackwood certificate, suitably inscribed. Bro. Lawson, on behalf of the elders, supported the remarks of the president; Bro. Martin for the choir; Bro. Critson represented the Young Men's Class; Bro. Chas. Smith the Training Class; Bro. Bert Schmidt the officers; Bro. John Thompson, the treasurer, also paid some happy compliments to the secretary. The Sunday School was also represented. Bro. Harris thanked the brethren for their cordial reception of his labors among them, and hoped with the help of our Master to continue to warrant the same confidence of the brethren until called to higher service. The annual Sunday School picnic was celebrated on Good Friday at the Botanic Park. The gospel was preached on Sunday evening by Bro. Paternoster, Bro. Brooker being present at York on the occasion of their anniversary.—A.C.

WALKERVILLE—Morning congregation was small, Bro. Bradley presiding. A. Fisher exhorted. Sunday School still progressive. Juvenile Endeavor progressing, numbering so on the roll. Evening meeting, H. H. West speaking; a very fair attendance, chiefly young people. The officers are anxious to put a new mission in order that we may be better known and understood. The mission which worked things up to the establishing of the church did well, but now the workers are off on other missions. G. Wilson, who labored hard and constantly, finds his hands toward the leader of the song service, the same; also E. D. Clarke, the song secretary. We then all very much. A teacher's Bible was presented to Bro. Clarke.—J.H.T.

HENLEY BEACH—On April 4 we continued our anniversary services by a tea and public meeting. We had a splendid tea, for which we must thank the ladies. The public meeting was well attended. The chairman was D. A. Evans, speaker, Bro. W. Allen, H. D. Smith, W. B. Blakemore. The secretary's report showed that we have had an increase of thirty for the year, eleven from four sister churches; we transferred four to our sister churches. To-day we had a splendid tea and singing around the Lord's table. Bro. Gore presided, Bro. Grenville acted. In the evening Bro. Gore of the Bible School was held on April 6 at Kensington Gardens, an ideal picnic ground. A most enjoyable time was spent, the weather being

everything that could be desired. After the distribution of prizes to the various winners, T. J. Gore, on behalf of the school, presented the superintendent, G. Hurecomb, with an inkstand.—April 3.

PROSPECT—Bro. Baker addressed the church this morning, as the writer was at the Stockade speaking to the prisoners. There was a good meeting at night. We are arranging for special services the first Sunday in May, in connection with Hospital Sunday.—I. A. Paternoster.

GROTE-ST.—Good interest is being maintained during Bro. Blakemore's visit. At the mid-week meetings he is giving addresses from the Psalms. Last Wednesday evening he gave a splendid address before a good attendance. Two good meetings to-day. Bro. Blakemore exhorted. H. J. Horsell, of Croydon, and Sister Horsell, his mother, had fellowship with us. This evening Bro. Blakemore preached a forceful sermon on "Sin" to a well-filled church.—T.M.G., April 6.

UNLEY—An enjoyable evening was spent on Tuesday last at the meeting of the Literary Society. The programme consisted of readings and essays on the writings of Dickens, and a debate on "Should Bachelors be Taxed?" To-day our Sunday School anniversary was celebrated. Bro. Walker's address in the morning was on "The Church and the Child." In the afternoon a service of song, "Thy Special," was successfully rendered, under the conductorship of E. H. Kestish, with E. Stone as organist, and A. Storer as reader, and several of the items were repeated this evening. On both occasions the chapel was crowded, including the large raised platform for the singers. This morning J. D. Blackwell was received by letter from the Milang church. We were sorry to hear of the death of one of the young members of the church, Miss Myrtle Rodda, who passed away this morning.—P.S.M., April 6.

NORWOOD—Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Dickson, having been in Melbourne for these Sundays, attending the Conference meetings and enjoying a well-earned holiday. During their absence our meetings have been fairly well attended, and we Taylor, and A. G. Day, E. Paternoster, H. R. Pennington, in Mr. Dickson's absence. Next Sunday we held our anniversary service, when we hoped to have large attendances.—S.P.W., April 6.

SEMAPHORE—Good meetings to-day. A. L. Bond, of Maryland, presided at the Lord's table. A large number of visitors were present. We family with us again, and Sister Walker and night the hall was full. A man and his wife responded to the invitation. All departments of the church in a healthy condition. Bible School edified.—T., April 6.

GLENSIDE—We had a fine meeting last night enlarged group of photos of our workers in the school-room, has been beautifully framed and hung in the school-room. We have started a young Christian class, having as its special object the training of teachers in the Bible School. Great interest is taken in this class, which is conducted by the writer. During the absence of Miss Burber, and in trying to continue the good work done by

MILE END—Meetings, especially in the evening, have steadily improved of late; morning service, 118 broke bread last Lord's day. Four members were received in from Norwood. Bro. and Sister Pillar, and Miss Myers. Bro. P. was 15 years a deacon at Norwood. School also progressing. There are 193 scholars, including 77 in the Kindergarten department, and a staff of 30 teachers and officers, making a school force of 232. The preacher commences a series of five sermons on "Pentecost Lessons" on the 14th. The choir under the conductorship of R. Norman is doing good work in the gospel of song. The three Endeavor Societies are flourishing, and all church auxiliaries appear healthy. With all the machinery, we have had no confessions for one month. But we are still hoping.—E. April 7.

NARACOOETE—Our meetings throughout the day have been fairly good. We were glad to have back with us again Sister Millie Schelchke, who has been away for some time. To-night we rejoiced to witness the confession of a brother who for some three years had never entered a church building.—April 6.

GOOLWA—Since last report two have been received into fellowship. Lord's day, March 27, the anniversary of the church was celebrated. In the morning Bro. Caines presided, and Bro. Graham addressed the church, when we had several visitors from Hindmarsh Island. The afternoon and evening services were held in the Institute Hall, Bro. Caines addressing both meetings. On Monday evening the public meeting was held. Bro. Caines occupied the chair, and Bro. B. G. Milburn, Bro. Black, of Strathalbyn, and Mr. Crump, of the Methodist Church, addressed the meeting. At the close of the meeting, adjournment was made to the chancel for supper. Singing was rendered by the choir at all the services.—A.M.L., April 7.

MOONTA—Our Lord's day morning meeting continue to be marked by large attendances. Bro. Tuck, of Balaklava, spoke this morning, and received into fellowship two married sisters who were baptised last Lord's day. Bro. Tuck also spoke in the evening, and gave a fine address.—W. MacGregor, March 30.

Victoria.

NORTH RICHMOND—On March 30, G. B. Mossy favored us with a visit and preached a splendid sermon. Good morning meeting last week. J. Abercrombie exhorted. One received into fellowship. The amount raised by the sale of work was £52/2/-, and not £15 as stated in last week's issue.

BALLARAT—Splendid meetings to-day. Several visitors with us: Sister Sinclair, Lydia and Bro. Shaw, Prahran; Bro. Synn, Scotch; Sister Jones, Homebush; Sister Gaudin, Northcote; Sister Gearing, Collingwood; Sister Hall, Wellington, N.Z.; E. Thomas, exhorter, and at night spoke on the subject, "The Railroad to Heaven." Bro. Thomas has been preaching for us for the last two months, and his work has been greatly appreciated. A. R. Main has come to proclaim the gospel for the next few months, when we expect H. P. Long to labor with us.—A.E.P., April 6.

COLAC—Good meetings to-day. At the morning meeting Bro. Chandler gave the exhortation on "Paying the Price," and at the evening service spoke of "The Old Scarelight on a New Track," portraying baptism in a forcible manner to a full audience, one young man from the Bible Class making the good confession. At a social gathering held on Wednesday the 2nd, and Sister Lewis, and Bro. and Sister Bro. Chandler married, were each presented by a gift of past services rendered to the church.—E.S., April 6.

MORELAND—Every thing going very well all meetings, large attendance, but we regret to say that many have been kept away through illness. At the close of Bro. Pittman's address on March 30, the husband of one of our sisters was members confessed his faith in Christ, and was baptised the same hour. A football club has been formed by the young men of the church, and

In the Realm of the Bible School.

JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT.

Sunday School Lesson for April 27.

Genesis 37.

A. R. Main, M.A.

With this lesson we enter upon a new division of the Book of Genesis. The narrative is concerned with the story of God and the way in which the Lord led his people into Egypt, which was "God's schoolroom" for his chosen nation.

"The fulness of the narrative," says W. H. Griffith Thomas, "is worthy of consideration. There is a four-fold value and importance in the record of Joseph's life. (1) It gives the explanation of the development of the Hebrews. (2) It is a remarkable proof of the quiet operation of Divine Providence overruling evil, and leading at length to the complete victory of truth and righteousness. (3) It affords a splendid example of personal character. (4) It provides a striking series of typical illustrations of Christ. Joseph exemplifies the testing and triumph of faith."

Family discord.

It is a terrible scene which our lesson presents. What floods of envy, jealousy, and hate there must have been when the sight of a lad of seventeen would lead the sons of Jacob to thoughts of murder and came then to enslave their brother and well-nigh break their father's heart! The fact is that Jacob in great pain was reaping what he had sown. His polygamous life was finding its not unmerited issue. Laban's deceit in forcing Jacob to marry Leah was finding its result in the hatred between the sons of Leah and the son of Rachel. Mere favoritism of Rebekah, which before resulted in such estrangement and evil, is now repeated in Jacob's case to the dividing of his house and the sorrow of his heart. Alexander Whyte says: "Were it not that our own hearts so continually condemn us, we would turn on Jacob with indignation for his mischievous treatment of Joseph. Can Jacob have forgotten the sea of trouble into which his father's favoritism and his mother's indulgence cast both themselves and their children? The woeful harvest of all that long-past folly is still making both Joseph's life, and many other lives, as bitter as death to this day, and yet here is Jacob, poisoning the whole of his family life also, and sending Joseph, just as Isaac and Rebekah had poisoned their own and their children's lives when Jacob and Leah were still their children. We would denounce Jacob for his insane treatment of Joseph, were it not that we are all ourselves repeating the sins and follies every day, from which we and our families have suffered for generations."

Why was Joseph hated?

There are three obvious reasons for the jealousy and hate of the brethren.

1. Jacob's partiality has been referred to. This was specially marked when Jacob bestowed on Joseph "a coat of many colors" (or, as the R.V. margin has it) "a long garment, with sleeves." "The gift of a coat of many colors (or pieces), or rather the 'tunic with sleeves,'" says W. H. G. Thomas, "was about the most significant act that

Jacob could have shown to Joseph. It was a mark of distinction that carried its own meaning, for it implied that exemption from labor which was the peculiar privilege of the heir or prince of the Eastern clan. And so, when his brethren saw these marks of special favor, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him."

2. The reports which Joseph gave of his brother's evil conduct further alienated them. Was Joseph a tall tale? Some are apt to find palliation for the brothers' anger in Joseph's tale-bearing. We need not justify tale-bearing generally when we say that the Bible writer evidently approves Joseph's act. Jacob had a right to know. There is no suggestion that Joseph was a Paul Pry, a magnifier of trifles; rather his innocent soul was shocked by the wickedness of his older brothers and he endured their anger in doing his duty.

3. The dreams which Joseph related enraged the brothers. The brothers' sheaves bowed down to his sheaf. They read the dream aright, and saw that the dream implied his rulership over them. We may differ as to our views of the wisdom of Joseph's narration. Of the dreams, A. Maclaren wisely says: "Note that Joseph did not tell his dreams with elation or with a notion that they meant anything in particular. It is plainly the singularity of them that makes him repeat them, as is clearly indicated by the repeated 'he-hold' in his two reports. With perfect innocence of intention, and as he would have told any other strange dream, the lad repeats them. The commentary was the work of his brothers, who were ready to find proofs of his being put above them, and of his wish to humiliate them, in anything he said, or did. They were wiser than he was. Perhaps they suspected that Jacob meant to set him at the head of the clan on his decease, and that the dreams were trumped up and told to them to prepare them for the decision which the special costume may have already hinted. At all events, hatred is very suspicious, and ready to prick up its ears at every syllable that seems to speak of the advancement of its object."

Concerning the dreams, some things have to be remembered. There seems little doubt that they came from God. They came true. It may well be that Joseph spoke of them too freely. Jacob gives him a gentle rebuke. Such dreams flaunted or openly discussed would naturally arouse antagonism in such brothers as Joseph had. De la Motte has a shrewd comment: "Dreams become significant when they embody in a picturesque form the concentrated essence of the general tenor of our thoughts or tendency of our character. And it did so, and were no mere fanciful whimsicalities. The fact that neither the primly dress nor the confident dreams excited their ridicule, but both pretenses of the dress, and already felt the approving superiority which but significance to the

A study in conscience.

The brothers' hatred of Joseph was such that the first proposal was to slay him and cast his

body into a pit, and then report to Jacob that a wild beast had devoured his favorite son. Reuben, by no means an ideal character, was grieved by this design, yet apparently feared wholly to oppose it. He seemingly acquiesced, but suggested that Joseph's blood be not shed: "Cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but lay no hand upon him." Reuben hoped to free Joseph; but his plan was frustrated by the selling in his absence of his brother to the Ishmaelites. The writer later describes Reuben's grief at the loss of Joseph. Reuben was the least guilty of the brothers; but we cannot laud him highly, for he agreed to the heartless deception of Jacob.

Judah it was who made the proposal to sell Joseph; he put it thus: "What profit is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let us our hand be upon him; for he is our brother, our flesh." To what extent this proposal was actuated by a kindly heart, I leave others to judge. It does not much impress me that he said, "He is our brother, our flesh," when he was willing to sell him to slavery. The rest agreed, and Joseph was sold for about three pounds into an existence which, but for the mercy of God, might have been worse than death.

The curious conscience of these people should be noticed. There is a kind of "comparative virtue." When a very wicked deed is planned, as yet not quite so heinous seems good by comparison. Joseph Parker puts the lesson thus: "In how possible it is to fall from a rough kind of sin, such as 'Let us slay our brother,' into a noble form of inquiry, such as 'Let us sell our brother,' and to think that now we have actually come into a state of virtue. That is to say, selling is contrasted with slaying seems so moderate and amiable a thing to do, as actually to amount to a kind of virtue. Observe, the morality has not been changed, only the point in the scale has been lowered. When God comes to judge the world, he will not say, 'Is this virtue and water? Is this diluted sin?' but 'Is this right? Is this wrong?'"

"They sat down to eat bread." What heartless wretches! The writer tells us more of their callous natures in that simple sentence than could be set forth in a paragraph of description.

"God meant it for good."

Even now, as we read this story, it will be well to have in mind the sequel which we shall later study. The greatest lesson of our story is that "God works purposes through even the crimes of ungodly men." God used Joseph's exile to bring blessing on Egypt and on Israel. The brethren were saved from famine by him whom they sold to slavery. Joseph later said: "Ye meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Gen. 50: 20). Lyman Abbott expresses the lesson thus:—"The lesson shows the expediency attempting to defeat God's plans. The experiment is continually repeated; and it not only always fails, but God turns the method chosen for defeat into an instrument of larger victory. The brethren will have no dominion of Joseph over Egypt, so they sell him into Egypt, there to attain a position neither he nor they ever dreamed of. Sold into slavery, he is not to be chased from the wilderness, where there gather about him the men that constitute the nucleus of his future army, and lead on to his military glory and power. The Pharaohs will kill this Mesopotamian, but God will use his tomb, and on his crucifixion and resurrection the whole fabric of future Christianity is upreared. This is always the result of fighting against God; there can never be any other."

Alexander Maclaren says: "The lesson of Joseph's bondage will one day be the summing up of the world's history. 'Thou makest the wrath of man to praise thee; and with the remainder thereof thou girdest thyself.'"

It is manly to love one's country. It is God-like to love the world."
—J. C. Conklin.



Address communications to
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THE
LATEST
NOTINGS.

The annual offering this year to be taken by the Foreign Mission Committee on July 6 should bring forth records in most of the churches, as God in his goodness has continued prosperity in the land in which we live.

In response to an appeal for lantern slides for Pentecost, one good friend has given 41 for slides to be purchased. T. Hagger has offered to donate some; a lantern firm has offered to sell some at a reduced rate, and another brother has offered a dozen or so. We thank all who have helped in this matter.

A sister from Emerald has sent a parcel of clothes, etc. for Pentecost, which are thankfully received.

I tell you, fellow Christians, your love is a broken wing if it cannot fly across the ocean.

The main duty, privilege and honor of the Church of God in the twentieth century is to preach the gospel to the whole creation.

The Norwood Bible School is supporting Pentecost in India. They have had an enlargement of their hall, which has been hung in the assembly hall of the Sunday School.

The set of postcards issued by the Committee at the price of 3d. per set of 10 is still on sale. If you wish a set, write to T. B. Fischer.

The Lantern Lectures, "Through India with a Camera," will be given by the Victorian Secretary as follows:—

- Wednesday, April 2, North Richmond.
- Tuesday, April 15, Williamstown.
- Wednesday, April 23, Dancaster.
- Wednesday, April 30, Abbotsford.
- Wednesday, May 7, Footscray.
- Tuesday, May 13, Windsor.
- Monday, May 19, North Melbourne.
- Wednesday, May 21, South Melbourne.
- Wednesday, June 4, Prahran.
- Tuesday, June 10, Moreland.
- Thursday, June 17, Balmain st., Richmond.
- Wednesday, June 18, South Yarra.
- Thursday, June 24, Ascot Vale.
- Wednesday, June 25, Newmarket.
- Wednesday, July 2, North Fitzroy.

D. C. McCallum is the editor of the little four-page monthly paper entitled *The Philippine Christian*, which is published at Cebu, P.I. It reaches us with regularity, and makes interesting reading.

Let us forget we reproduce the names and addresses of the State Secretaries of the Foreign Mission Committees—N.S.W., F. T. Sumner, to Hayberry-st., North Sydney, South Australia, I. A. Paterson, Buller-st., Prospect, West Australia, W. B. Blakemore, Bulwer-st., Perth, Queensland, L. Gale, Macleod-st., Brisbane, Tasmania, A. E. Gourlay, M'arth, Hobart. Victoria, T. B. Fischer, Cheltenham.

Some time ago E. G. Palmer, of Bannocraig, Penrith, wrote as follows, concerning gifts of goods which friends might desire to make:—"If ever written to on the subject you might inform enquirers that nothing is appreciated so much as clothes (old or new, all descriptions, varieties and fashions); old hats and caps, especially felt hats; Authorized Version Bibles, and Sankey's hymn books (new or old); old umbrellas; old razors; needles and cotton; pieces of prun from size of handkerchief upwards; pieces of fencing wire from six inches long upwards; all kinds of garden seeds (flower, vegetables, and fruit trees); old enamel ware, such as mugs, plates, basins, etc. So far I have confined myself to things which may be given without cause of expensiture to the givers; but if any wish to purchase anything, please advise them to put it into common household soap. Nothing is more needed and few things are more acceptable than the last named." If any brother or sister desires to respond to the above, please acquaint your own State Secretary, who will give you full information as to where the goods should be sent.

The following are special extracts from a letter written by Mrs. Edith Henderson, letter known to us as Nurse Terrell:—

"We have been out 40 miles from Belgaum for nearly one month now, camping in a tent. God is giving success, thus encouraging us at the beginning of our pioneering work. Work in a native State is difficult, as people do not understand our methods; they have, however, been extremely kind in the way in which they have received us.

"The first Sunday we spent here was not at all encouraging. A man came to my husband while he was preaching in the crowded bazaar, and he was preaching in the crowded bazaar, and he openly accused him of stealing 10/- from him the openly accused him of stealing 10/- from him the same morning. Eventually Mr. Henderson and the native preacher returned to the tent, but were followed by the man, who still demanded the money. This not forthcoming, he became very threatening with a heavy stick which he carried, and one of our men fearing trouble went for the police inspector, who came and settled matters. We asked that the man should not be imprisoned, and he has given us no trouble since, though he is considered a terror to the town.

"A few days after our arrival, some Brahmins came and asked Mr. Henderson to come and give a talk at a public meeting in a temple, and give our reasons for coming to this place. As he refused to take off his boots on entering the temple

(in honor of the idol), the meeting was arranged to be held at 8 a.m. in the public school, where about 100 leading men, pleaders, schoolmasters and scholars met to hear and ask questions. The meeting was orderly, and they were most attentive. This was a unique opportunity to give the gospel to high caste people, as caste forbids them to mix freely with the common crowd. Since that time many have come to the tent to learn more or to discuss religious questions."

J. Ware, of Shanghai, China, has sent some resolutions which were passed at a delegate meeting held from February 11 to 15, 1913, at Shanghai, under the presidency of John R. Mott, Chairman of the Continuation Committee of the Edinburgh Conference. The resolutions are striking and read as follows:—

Resolution 1. The Church of Christ is essentially one, and it is the duty of those who call upon the name of Christ in every place to manifest this unity to the world. We can therefore set before the Church in China no lower ideal than that of a manifest and organic unity. It should include all those within the Chinese nation who hold the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ. But this unity must be a result of spiritual growth rather than of outward organization. Organization should be expressive of the growth in unity of life.

Resolution 2. We recognize with gratitude to God such growth at the present time, in the larger realization of brotherhood which has taken place between all sections of the Reformed Churches in China, in the degree in which the Chinese Church in this area has already moved towards its ideal in its enlarged membership, in its growing fruitfulness in evangelisation, as shown by the organization of Home Missionary societies, and in all forms of Christian service, and in its increasing exercise of the grace of liberality. These features justify the anticipation that at no distant date the Chinese Church will take its due place as the premier body of the Christian forces in China, and we confidently hope that the growth in unity will, as a result of the Holy Spirit's work, continue until we are all manifestly united into one body.

Resolution 3. We recognize too that at the present time there are longing desires for the immediate realisation of the unity of the Chinese Church and we suggest that difficulties may be best avoided by the federation of existing churches at once, for mutual counsel and co-operation, in work, and when this is accomplished, for organic unity.—The differences which now characterize us are not the result of willful disobedience and will doubtless disappear as we, by united counsel and work, understand each other better, and attain to a fuller conformity to the mind of Christ. We believe that the way to unity will open as we patiently study the Scriptures, the past history of the church, and the living experience of the various present sections of the church.

From the Field—Continued.

On the 30th J. Swan, of Brisbane, exhorted, and Bro. Bulgin preached. Our Lord's day School is becoming interesting. Both sides are trying hard to gain scholars. The rally has now been running four weeks, and we have had nine additions. Bro. Bulgin has got a nice class of young men—J. Bruce, March 31.

TOOWOOMBA—Since the departure of Missions: F. Goble the church has had a season of quietness, but under the able supervision of Bro. Quire the regular meetings are kept hot, and the work is going on. Our leaders are due to Bro. Quire and Clarke, for the exhorting of the church and the preaching of the gospel on Sunday evenings. These brethren were relieved by a welcome visit from Bro. Geraghty, of Tannymorelli, who, passing through on his way to Brisbane, en route for the Old Country, preached morning and evening on two successive Lord's days, and was well received. On Lord's day morning, March 10, special mention was made of the passing of Sister Fisher, who had provided for herself an earnest member of the church and Sunday School worker, and her memory will live long amongst us. We rejoice in the knowledge of her entrance into rest. Thursday evening, March 20, was set apart to the interests of Temperance. Bro. Barnard, of Ma Ma Creek, in the chair. A stirring, forceful address was delivered by Bro. Forbes, of Albion, making very clear the attitude that a Christian should take up with regard to the intoxicating liquor traffic. The programme consisted of singing, recitations, solos and a diel, each of which strongly favored temperance—G. S. Sherman, March 31.

MOUNT WALKER—On Easter Monday we held our church anniversary. We were favored by visiting brethren and sisters from afar: Bro. Fraser, of Newcastle, N.S.W.; Bro. Geraghty, from Tannymorelli; Bro. Rodgers, from Gungahlin; and some from Brisbane, Ipswich, Marburg, Rosevale, and surrounding districts. The attendance was a record one—between two and three hundred. Lunch was served at noon, and in the afternoon short addresses were given by Bro. Rodgers, Fraser and Geraghty. In the evening we had a good programme. Bro. Fraser acted as vocalist in the evening, to a good congregation. Bro. Geraghty is on his way for a trip to the Old Country. We expect that on his return home he will call at Mount Walker again, and give us a lecture on his travels. Our Confessants were also very ardent and inspiring, and should increase in numbers, March 27.

ALBION—A special meeting of the church was held on March 27 for the purpose of hearing the reports by the delegates to the Conference. General approval was expressed at the expressive character of the work undertaken by the conference. A brother was restored and received into fellowship. Several visitors worshipped with us, including Bro. Farley, of Tannymorelli, who exhorting Bro. Fisher preached on John 3: 5. The hall was well filled, and the society delivered a most interesting address. The weekly contributions since last report are very good and splendidly. A and Glasgow Valley street and 76. The first two has been reached, for which we praise God.—H.C.S., March 31.

New South Wales.

ENMORE—We had a very interesting morning. Bro. and Sister Lewis, of Long Plains, S.A., and seriously affected the meetings, and are glad to be able to report one confession—L. J. Hillier.

MARRIBETH—We were pleased to hear Bro. and Sister Lewis, from Tumbar, with us last Monday evening. The Bible school demonstration took place. Splendid programme and a crowded house. The Willing Workers Class held

their monthly social on Thursday evening last, and were present. The annual business meeting of the church will be held on the 17th inst.—W.H.H., April 6.

MERRIWETHER—The church is still progressing. Bro. Nesbit exhorted, and all enjoyed his words. Bro. Cullinan is spending a week and will hold. During his absence Bro. Bretwell has kindly consented to preach the gospel and offer a married woman and the other the daughter of Sister Brown—Jas. Fraser, April 6.

MILLYVILLE—The first week of the tent mission has concluded with one confession; the meetings during the nights of the week have been fairly well attended, and much interest has been aroused. Wet weather drove us on the Lord's day into the chapel building—J. Fox.

MRSKINEVILLE—A book evening was held on April 1st, by which means a considerable number of splendid books have been added to the Bible School library. Our new librarian, A. Clydesdale, is remodeling the library. A very pleasant social evening was spent. Our Bible School has commenced the study of the N.S.W. Bible Schools examination lessons; we hope to have a record success this year. Everything is going on grandly, but new building is going on apace. We are looking forward to its completion.—W. Badgen, April 7.

CHINESE MISSION, SYDNEY—On April 1 the teachers and scholars of the mission tendered a farewell social to Miss Stevens on the eve of her departure for Melbourne, where for a time she will prepare for service under the China Inland Mission. Our sister, who has worked with us during the past three years, leaves with the good will of her fellow-workers and pupils, who showed their appreciation of her efforts by presenting her with a travelling chair. Addresses were given by Bro. Blank, Taylor, Lovegrove and Jame, interspersed with solos and duets from the teachers and scholars, after which tea was served—E. J. Priddle, April 5.

MOSMAN—Bro. and Sister Waters, who left by steamer to-day, on their way back to the island of Ota, New Hebrides, were with us on Sunday. Bro. Webber exhorted on "The Power of the Tongue," and Sister Waters gave a very interesting talk to the Bible School in the afternoon. At the gospel service Alan Price preached on the subject of "Peace"—S.G., April 1.

INVERELL—We had one confession at a meeting held at Gum Flat, one of our country centres, an elderly woman, who journeyed about eight miles on the following Lord's day to be immersed. The husband of the lady also came and the two were baptised, and received into fellowship. We had a good spiritual gathering over seventy years of age, went away rejoicing. Our meeting for worship, and in the evening, the morning the writer gave a word of exhortation. In the evening Bro. Cook gave a word of exhortation. We were pleased to see Bro. Cust filling his rounds, and steady progress is being made—G.H., March 30.

New Zealand.

DUNEDIN—Last evening P. D. McCallum preached upon "The Ultimate Purpose of Christ." The service there was, and at the conclusion McCallum is now chairman of the Home Mission Committee—L.C.S., March 31.

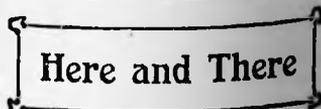
MATAURA—A great flood out of our electric kerosene lamps had to be requisitioned for our highest ever experienced here, and has wrought our widespread damage. Bro. Bull's farewell service, and the farewell social has had to be de-

AUCKLAND (Dominion rd.)—At 8 o'clock on March 8 about a dozen willing workers made a start on the alterations to our chapel. In the afternoon another dozen or more were at work, and by 6 p.m. the blocks, jack studs, floor joists and joists were in place, weather-boarded and painted up to the level of the main floor. Excavation for septic tank and trench for drain had also been got ready. A number of sisters prepared lunch and afternoon tea for the workers. The work is being carried out under the supervision of Mr. F. J. H. Harrison, builder, Kingland rd. We are hoping with our sincerest wishes on the way to make a big show. Sunday School anniversary tea took place on March 14. About 120 children and 10 adults (including teachers) attended, after which a very enjoyable social was spent. The scholars taking part in dialogues, recitations, solos and musical items, and doing themselves and their trainers great credit. Prizes for the year were distributed. On Sunday, March 16, Bro. Greenwell gave an interesting and instructive address on "Duffing Billy," illustrated with a real square, and in the evening preached to a crowded house, about 120 being present. Church meetings continue well attended. The Improvment Club has opened again and will we hope be a means of doing much good—J.W., March 19.

WELLINGTON (Vivian st.)—Last Sunday evening R. A. Wright gave a splendid address on the reasons for Christ's death, while on the previous Sunday evening Bro. Vickery delivered a very logical sermon on the Resurrection. His addresses were excellent, and highly appreciated. T. B. Mathison and his wife arrived from America by the "Tahiti" this afternoon. They will spend a few days in Nelson with S. J. Mathison, then proceed to Oamaru to take up the work there. The Chapman-Alexander mission announced here yesterday. M. O. Johnson, our new preacher, with his wife, leaves Vancouver by the "Marana" on April 16, arriving at Auckland on May 6, and Wellington a day or so later—R.H., March 27.

West Australia.

MAYLANDS—Splendid interest manifested in all our services. Morning meetings well attended. We held an open-air service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, inviting listeners to attend our evening services. Bro. Scambler's preaching is drawing an increasing number of strangers, and last week four bright lad- from our Bible School were baptised—W., March 31.



Here and There

This issue of the "Christian" has four extra pages.

We hear that R. T. Bass has resigned at Mayland, S.A., with the intention of laboring in W.A. At the Melbourne University Commencement on Saturday, A. R. Main received his M.A. degree.

The S.A. Conference Committee contemplates placing a preacher at Mooma as soon as they have selected a suitable man.

T. H. Mathison and his wife arrived in New Zealand on March 27 from San Francisco. They will take up the work at Oamaru.

N. J. Warrumban, secretary of the Launceston church, and C. Hale, of the Central Hobart Mission, have sent us notes on the Launceston mission, but owing to pressure on our space we could not find room for them.

It is A. P. Wilson's fault that his photo does not appear in the group of pictures in connection with the Launceston mission. He did splendid gainful work for the mission, and we would have been glad to have given him a position of honor in connection with it.

W. G. O'Connell made splendid preparation for the mission now being conducted at Swan Hill, Vic.

F. T. Saunders is taking up work at Lilyville. His address is now Botany-st., South Kensington, N.S.W.

H. E. Anderson is now secretary of the North Richmond church. His address is 123 Somerset-st., Richmond.

The S.A. Secretary has been instructed to make enquiries with reference to finding a competent brother to take up the work of St. George's.

The Victorian General Deacons will meet on Wednesday next, 16th inst., in the lecture hall, Swanston-st. chapel, from 10.30. All sisters cordially invited.

The officers of the F.M. Committee of N.S.W. for the year are: President, J. Cyle-dale; Vice-President, G. H. Browne; Treasurer, W. H. Hall; Secretary, F. T. Saunders.

The monthly Council meeting of the Victorian Churches of Christ C.E. Union will be held next Monday evening at Swanston-st. lecture hall at 8 p.m. Delegates please attend.

W. Gale will close his labors at Castlemaine, Vic., on Sunday, April 28. He goes to N.S.W. as Bible School Organiser. N.S.W. leads the way in this matter, so far as Australia is concerned.

Last Sunday morning at Swan Hill, Vic. a group were presented to the meeting from St. Paul's church, and from E. Dudley, of Shepparton; both expressed the desire that the mission should be successful.

Kyneton, Vic. church has about £70 in her land and building fund; this fund was started at the close of the mission there in February last. At this rate the church there should soon have a home of her own.

The Advisory Board appointed by the Victorian Conference held a preliminary meeting at which A. Mills was appointed Chairman and R. Eames secretary. The secretary's address is Christian chapel, Lygon-st., Carlton.

A well attended Home Missionary meeting was held at South Melbourne, Vic., on Wednesday, April 2, in which Sister Mrs. J. Pittman, Sister Mrs. Clay and Bro. E. Davis, W. H. Clay, and J. Hagger took part. A number of regular contributors were added to the newly appointed collector—H. K.

We regret to hear that Arthur Cadroft, of the College of the Bible, has been advised by the doctor to spend the winter in Queensland. All being well, he will return to the College at the beginning of next year. In the meanwhile he will be glad to hear from any church in Queensland that could utilize his services.

The South Australian Church Extension Building Fund requires £250 at least in gifts by the end of April, and £400 by way of loans, to complete the erection of buildings at Moonta, Wallaroo and Tumby Bay. Send remittances at once to Walter Manning, acting secretary, National Mutual Buildings, King William-st., Adelaide.

Abbotsford, Vic. church is making splendid headway under the leadership of J. W. Parfellow. During the three months he has been there, there has been an increase of 88 in the Bible School, and better equipment has been provided for this important branch of the work. The church shows an advance in attendance at all the meetings, increasing income, a men's society organised, a women's society with 30 working members, a young people's society with 78 on the roll, a Junior C.E. Society which has increased from 35 to 59 in the past three months, 22 confessions for the last three Sundays in March.

Importance.—The Secretary of the Federal Executive, A. C. Rankin, writes: "The Federal treasury is running low. Once again I ask, Will the churches be so kind with an offering? Will the men, individual brethren and sisters send along an offering to assist us carry on the work? We have 14 ladies resting upon us. Surely the churches of the Transman mission should encourage us to do this to help us. That mission was the product of their action and effort of the Federal Executive. We have other calls to an

swer, and are depending upon the churches. Do not let this appeal fall on deaf ears and unresponsive hearts. We mean business for our Divine Lord and King."

Apostrophe in Japan.—The outlook among the Christian masses in Japan is one which should cause deep satisfaction to all Christians who are in touch with the gospel. It comes from the figure of a religious census recently taken in the Imperial University of Japan, at Tokio, that of the students in attendance, three-fourths declare themselves Agnostics, while fifteen hundred are content to be registered as Agnostics. That leaves only five hundred of the whole to be accounted for; and of these, sixty are Christian, fifty Buddhist, and eight Shinto. The odd beliefs are largely some in Japan; and while so many are disposed to answer the religious question by saying, "We do not know," there is strong hope that evangelistic work among the people may yet yield fruit to the glory of God.

Light on the Inquisition.—In a very important volume dealing with the history of the Jews of Spain, viz. the *Christian*, Mr. Joseph Jacobs, of New York, has embodied the results of many months' researches in the archives of Spanish cities and towns; and it goes without saying that the volumes which he has culminated throw a splendid light on the central part of the story. The Church of Rome was hard at work with rack and flame. That so-called "heretics" were in some cases put to the torture five or six times, and that the same two witnesses were put up to testify against scores of accused men and women in different towns, does not need explaining. But the record which the Inquisition discovery also was mere children; and one document gives the names of two girls, Inez Gonzalez and Isabel Orstein, each aged only ten years, against whom all the brutal force of Rome was employed. Even the covers of many of these records are decorated with flames!

H. D. Smith writes: "On Saturday, March 23, there was a singing gathering held at the Adelaide Bible College, to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Bro. Michael Richardson, formerly of Hindmarsh church, S.A., but now of Mylar, in the Adelaide Hills. Besides a few professed friends, the following of his children were present: Michael Ralph, Robert Joseph and Joseph Richard, his three sons; Mrs. W. G. Bell and Mrs. D. Battersby, his daughters, with the majority of their families, married and single, down to the fifth generation being represented; to the number of eighty in Australia. Another son and his wife with nine children live in England, so that the descendants of our young and vigorous brother reach the number of ninety three. A portion of the family group was taken, then refreshments were handed round, after which the health and prosperity of Bro. Richardson, senior, was proposed by his two eldest sons, and supported by H. D. Smith, with singular support by all present. A young son, however, had been gathered, among the young members, which was presented by a golden-haired great-granddaughter to our aged brother, with suitable gifts by other members of the family. In acknowledging the gifts and good wishes of all present, Bro. Richardson said there were three essentials for long life: temperance, keeping the body clean by moderation in eating and fruit and brown bread, with trust in God and His great merciful arrangements. He had been an abstinent for intoxicants for 51 years, and hoped by God's mercy to meet us all on his hundredth birthday. To this we all said Amen."

VICTORIAN HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

The Conference demonstration in the Masonic Hall, Melbourne, was a great meeting. The hall was really too small to hold the crowd, and many stood throughout the meeting. The offering in cash and promissory came to £151/17/4. It will be in order for the many disciples who were not present to send in their gifts and promises for this important work.

Arrangements are being made to continue the work in practically all the fields of the past year, but the churches are being asked to do more towards the support of their own evangelists. This

is right, as there is so much more work waiting to be done.

We are being the services of H. Swain, as he goes to Lunenburg, Tasmania, to take the work there. Another brother has been invited to fill the vacancy at Warrnambool. W. Gale goes from Castlemaine to Scotch South Wales; arrangements are being made for this field also.

The H.M. Committee has decided to grant a subsidy for six months to Middle Park to enable that church to secure B. W. Huntman; to grant the request of the Murrumbidgee church to become an evangelist there; and to take up the work in the Port district. The question of helping Hampton will be considered next month. Part of the work of the preacher who goes to Murrumbidgee will be to prepare for a big tent mission next summer at Oakleigh, and the organisation of a church in that suburb.

Relying on the brotherhood for support, the Committee has gone in for a forward move this year, and will be prepared to undertake still more work if the whereabouts is supplied.

Don't forget that at least £200 will be required this year for our work, and please do not leave it to the end of the year, but start to send now. The money is needed for present work, and promising fields are being left to see if the brotherhood will supply the means to enter them.

Send offerings to: Theo. W. Smith, 720 Rialto-st., North Carlton, or W. C. Ozburne, 203 Little Collins-st., Melbourne.—Thos. Hanger.

Correspondence.

A CORRECTION.

Re report in the "Christian" from N.S.W. Conference, Saturday's sessions, that Hamilton (Newcastle) Bible School having reported 146 scholars last year, but owing to the loss of their building the school now numbers 26. Will you please allow me through your valuable paper to correct this. First, the Bible School never had 146 on the roll; second, the Bible School has not lost their building, nor yet the church. We still meet in the Mechanics' Institute for our regular worship and the Bible School at 3; and the gospel service at 7 p.m. We have 43 scholars on the roll now. In justice to the teachers and the church we would deem it a great favor if you would please publish this. We are—C. Burrows, Sec., Bible School, B. T. Crook, Sec., Church.

COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 15.—The Brunswick Church of Christ will hold a sale of work in the chapel, Gladstone-road, to be opened by the Mayor, Cr. Waxman, at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, April 15 (admission, silver coin), and continuing Wednesday and Thursday from 2.30 p.m. All are heartily invited.—Mrs. E. Payne, Belfast-road, Secretary.

APRIL 17.—Prospect Church of Christ Koppa Sigma Pi, or Modern Knights of St. Paul, Concert in the Prospect Hall, Thursday, April 17, at 7.45 p.m. Good programme arranged. Admission, 1/- Cars stop near Hall.

APRIL 23.—A grand public welcome to H. E. Proctor, of England, will be held in the North Richmond church on April 23. Prominent speakers and a good programme. All welcome.

MAY 1.—Bible School Day, Victoria, will be inaugurated on May 4, 1913. Special addresses, Collection in aid of local school work and Bible School Union. Watch next week's "Christian."—J. J. Post, Hon. Sec., Bible School Union.

Counsel to Converts

16 pp. with notes. Post Free AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING CO.

In Honor of the Pioneers.

By G. R. Moysiey.

Read at the Victorian Diamond Jubilee Celebration on March 28

Twice thirty years and more have fled,
Since first for truth our fathers plod;
Some few remain, the most are dead,
Alas! how swift the days have sped!
They raised a standard for the Lord,
They brave washed the Spirit's sword,
With truth they ever sought accord,
And ever dark they deep abhorred.

Emblazoned on their standard high
Immortal truth do we desire;
Great maxims, that can never die,
And principles that will defy.

"Where speaks the Bible, there we speak,"
In it alone for truth we seek;
From it gain strength when we are weak,
Oft by its law with spirit we seek.

What it enjoins do we command,
What it forbids, we straight withstand;
Where it is silent, we are free,
To walk in God's own liberty.

One Father, God, one Saviour, Christ,
One Hope, of all most highly prized;
One Baptism, and one Spirit true,
To animate one Body through.

Seven towers from heaven's own Sun divine,
Seven sections of truth's mighty round,
Seven pillars in God's temple shine,
Seven notes in God's grand scale are found.

Seven truths in God's grand scale are found,
Essentials all in God's redemptive plan;
It is perfection, none who can
E'en with angel wit, improve it, can.

We'll honor now those noble souls,
Who strove through many weary years,
To reach their lofty, heavenly goals,
The patient Pioneers.

We'll tell of those who prayed and toiled
As plainly it appears,
To give the world the truth unsold,
The faithful Pioneers.

We'll not forget the men who knew,
Tho' pressed by foes, no fears;
Who ever held up Christ to view,
The daring Pioneers.

They saw the coming of God's day,
Each year the prospect near;
They labored on in God's own way,
Far-seeing Pioneers.

They stannely stood by what they bought
With prayers and toils and tears;
Of truth they would not yield one jot,
The sturdy Pioneers.

They looked into the future far,
As sage and prophet peers;
With faith's clear eye saw victory's star,
Prophetic Pioneers.

They feared no foe in argument,
Nor were deterred by sneers;
Their armour showed full many a dent,
The brave old Pioneers.

For those who wandered from the Word,
They are were full of fears;
They asked for a "Thus saith the Lord,"
Old-fashioned Pioneers!

Then let us who are here to-night,
Through all the coming years,
If we believe that they were right,
Applaud the Pioneers.

Yet not by empty words of praise,
Or loud and ringing cheers;
Shall we our monument upraise
To worthy Pioneers.

But by a true and Christ-like life,
Which all to each endears;
By faith and truth and holy strife,
As fits the passing years.

Then in the glory land above,
In nobler, happier spheres,
Where toil is past and all is love,
We'll greet our Pioneers!

Sisters' Department.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A. E. Manning, Secretary, North Parade, Torrensville.

The Executive met on April 3. Mrs. Dumbrell led the devotional exercises.

Sunday School additions.—Prospect, 1.

Correspondence from F. Pilmer, Pontecost, New Hebrides; Mrs. F. Charlick, Mrs. Harlan, Christian Women's Board of Missions, America; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Day.

Obituary, Mrs. Dumbrell, Sister Parker, of the Grote-st. church, had received the home call. Roll call of delegates.—26 responded.

Collection, 17/9/2.

Treasurer's Report, Mrs. Bond.—Home Mission receipts, March 6, 14/10/8; in hand, 42/11/0; total, 28/1/8. Foreign Mission receipts, 4/1/3; in hand, 17/11/3; total, 42/1/2. General Fund collection, 10/8/5; in hand, 20/3/5; total, 17/0/2.

Hospital, Mrs. I. H. Brooker. The work has been much appreciated, and the visits are welcomed by all. The Robert-st. Y.P.S.C.E. gave a treat evening, and were able to give 30 lbs. of tomatoes, 2 lbs. of grapes, 9 lbs. of pears. The York harvest thanksgiving; these were distributed to the sick in the Destitute Asylum. Fruit, flowers, cakes, and many sick comforts have been taken to the Hospital and Home for Incubables. The good's best attention, and her visits are looked Home. The visits are as follows: Adelaide Hos- pitals, 3; Sick and Aged, 16; Magazines, 20.

Foreign Mission, Miss A. Warrall.—We are pleased to note the safe arrival of Mrs. and Sister Tracy, from Japan, and the warm welcome which France. We thank God for journeying mercies joy to seeing them in South Australia. We notice Mrs. Goodwin's health is still improving. Sister in training at the Queen's Home, who has been about six weeks, and will then go to Kensington Lodge to continue her studies so as to fit her for Society have promised £5 per year toward her boxes to one of our country churches. Two boxes Mella sisters, and one from the Hin lam-shan from the deacons. Annals as follows: Clayton, 17/4/3; Mothers' meeting, Grote-st. 3/7; cuttings, 12/11.

Home Mission amounts.—North Adelaide, 14/6; Norwood, 6/1; Mile End, 13/10; Queenstown, 42/2/7; Long Plain, 11/13/10; Grange, 8/9; Total, 85/19/6.—Mrs. F. Thomas.

We were pleased to have Miss Norman with us before her departure for England. She knew the sisters some nice words of farewell. The President, Mrs. Mauger, wished Miss Norman a pleasant voyage and journeying mercies, and a safe return from the Sisters' Executive.

Prayer Meeting Committee to take charge of next month's devotional meeting.

VICTORIA.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart."
Secretary, Miss Rometsch, 59 St. Vincent st., Albert Park.

"Willing to Serve."

Committees, 1913-14.—Home Mission: Supt., Mrs. J. Pittman; Sisters Mills, Craigie, Forbes, Haddow, McLellan, Thompson, Moysiey, Hazell, Paul, Dorcas: Supt., Mrs. C. H. Martin; Society Hill, Comor, Morris, F. A. Koup, Comor, Cousins, Kettle, Zelins, Bingley; Foreign Missions: Supt., Mrs. R. Lyall; Sisters Ludbrook, W. A. Kemp; Hospital Visitation: Supt., Mrs. W. C. Thurgood; Sisters Petchey, Jerrams, Tully, Morris, Cameron, Myers; Temperance: Supt., Mrs. Ray; Sisters Lindsay, Holmes, Walker, Jencks, Dawson. Prayer Meeting: Supt., Mrs. Trinka; Sisters Potts, Wilson, Baker, Nelson, Sharp; Female Asylum: Supt., Mrs. Chapman.

The Executive met in hall, Swanston-st., on April 4. Mrs. Chown presiding and leading devotional. New and old delegates were welcomed, and each sister urged to be faithful to the work allotted her this year. We have been "saved to serve."

Accounts in connection with late Conference were passed for payment. Treasurer's statement received.

Additions from Bible Schools: South Melbourne, 1; Box Hill, 1; Middle Park, 1; Williamstown, 3; North Richmond, 1; Collingwood, 2.

The following syllabus was approved and adopted: May 2, Mrs. F. Pittman had devotional address by Mrs. P. A. Davy. June 6, Miss Emmiss paper, Mrs. A. Lyall. July 13, praise, Mrs. Beiler; Foreign Mission talk by A. Ludbrook. August 1, Miss Hill paper, W. A. Amongst the Young. Mrs. H. Bond. Sept. 5, Mrs. Moysiey; temperance address by Mrs. 18-19-20, of W.C.T.U., Oct. 3, prayer and praise, Mrs. Pond; paper, Mrs. Craigie. Nov. 7, Mrs. 18-19-20; paper, Mrs. Potts. Dec. 5, Mrs. J. 18-19-20; paper, on Home Missions, Miss Winne. 18-19-20, Feb., prayer and praise, Mrs. Baker, an address on Woman's Work by Mrs. B. March 6, Miss Jerrams; short talk by Mrs. B. Huntsman. April 3, Mrs. Chown; paper, Mrs. 18-19-20.

Temperance Committee will visit Woodlee on April 14 at 8 p.m.

General Dorcas meets in hall, Swanston-st., on Wednesday, April 16, at 10 a.m.

Women's Home Missions Committee will hold a meeting at Lygon-st. on Tuesday, April 23, at 3 p.m.

Next Executive meeting in the hall, Swanston-st., May 2, at 2.30; all sisters cordially invited.

Church of Christ, Hampton.

Meets in the Hampton Hall, Hampton-st., just through railway gates. Morning at 11; evening at 7; Sunday School at 3 p.m. Brethren visiting the district will be most cordially welcomed. J. H. Tinkler, Secretary.

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