

# The Message of Xmas. By Rev. F. N. Shimmin.

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## The Primitive Methodist Leader

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### ON EARTH PEACE.

It has been said that the British public can only think of one question at a time. We all know the absorbing theme of the present hour. But as Christmas-tide makes our hearts responsive to the spirit of peace, we put in a plea for a study of its real meaning. To the average man, as well as to the average statesman, peace means little more than 'respite from war.' In a purely political sense, this may pass with the crowd. But it requires little insight to discover that signing treaties on the ground of fear, expediency, and self-interest does not expel resentment from the heart of nations. It is like building on the surface of a seething volcano. If the fires of passion are in the heart they are sure to blaze forth. The peace we advocate means 'Wholeness,' 'Soundness,' spiritual and moral health; that state of heart in which the moral sentiments holds sway. The rule of love, giving strength in gentleness, courage in sweetness, activity in tranquility, will without obstinacy, self-confidence without conceit. It is the peace of Christ working ceaselessly towards the time foretold by prophets, when all the nations shall have become one and all society shall have become pure. This being God's purpose, and the goal of the whole creation, it behoves all men and women to work for its realization. Looking beneath the surface we may trace many forces working in this direction.

Rulers of nations once eager for war are now embracing peace principles, and openly declaring that to maintain them must be the first object of international policy.

In President Roosevelt's message to Congress he pledged his Government to do all that is possible to promote peace in the interests of national security. In our present national crisis we are grateful for a Cabinet of men loving peace and eager to promote its interests. Pressed by the claims of other great questions, we should demand from them close adherence to the spirit and practice of peace. This is very desirable on many grounds. First, on the ground of sound economics. Experts tell us, and prove what they say, that war means bankruptcy in the highest affairs of state. It may enrich a few, but it is a serious loss to the people as a whole. In fact it saps the very roots of national prosperity. How easy it would be to solve our social problems with the millions of money claimed for war! If the labour, genius, and wealth squandered on military forces were devoted to dealing with the poverty, the disease, and the overcrowding, which are the shame and sorrow of our great cities, we could in the course of ten years revolutionise every city in England, and thoroughly cleanse the sources of disease, poverty, and moral corruption. It is a strong testimony against the financial soundness of a nation when it wastes so much on war and spends so little in the pursuits of peaceful industry. The friends of peace would reverse all this in consecrating wealth to the people's real welfare.

Again, peace ought to be promoted in the interests of true patriotism. The average conception of this virtue is not sound. It means, to many, selfish exclusiveness, the pre-eminence of our own nation without just regard for the claims of others. No sane man would plead for a sentimental patriotism, professing love for the whole world, but lacking attachment to one's own home and

country. This is despicable! but may we not love other nations as much as our own? May we not act towards them with love and justice? Unless we do, we make unity impossible, because we shatter the foundation of international rights. National hatred ought to be denounced as a crime. We ought, therefore, to teach by precept and example that only through peace can we attain and do the most good. Our genuine patriotism will be best proved by freedom from the greed of ascendancy, the assertion of power, the passion for dominion, by doing unto others as we would they should do unto us, in promoting the brotherhood of man.

But peace should be promoted on moral grounds. It is to be feared that we have not brought home to our conscience the real evil of war. It is revolting to think of its horrors! The results are terrible, nor can we wonder that after Waterloo Wellington should write, 'My heart is broken by the terrible loss I have sustained in my old friends and companions, and my poor soldiers. Believe me, nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won.' But the moral aspect is graver than the physical. 'War,' says Robert Hall, 'reverses, with respect to its objects, all the rules of morality. It is nothing less than a temporary repeal of all the principles of virtue. It is a system out of which almost all virtues are excluded, and in which nearly all vices are incorporated.' These are strong words, but surely it is time the nation took to heart the truth that every unrighteous war is the capital crime of nations.

Does it not shock our moral sense to think that in war, 'man made to be a brother, becomes the deadly foe of his kind; that man whose duty it is to mitigate suffering makes its infliction his duty and end; arms himself with awful forces that he may become the destroyer of his race.' Such conduct makes us shrink from war with moral aversion. But to shrink is not enough, we must educate our rulers into the conviction that arbitration should take the place of war. The people should insist upon the establishment of an international Court, invested with power to settle on impartial, legal, and just grounds all disputes. And any nation refusing to abide by its decisions should come very properly under the condemnation of the civilised world. We hold with Milton that,

'They err who count it glorious to subdue,  
By conquest far and wide; to over-run  
Large countries, and in field great battles win,  
Great cities by assault.  
If there be in glory aught for good,  
It may by means far different be attained,  
Without ambition, war, or violence;  
By deeds of peace, by wisdom eminent,  
By patience, temperance.'

As Christian people we must, without disparaging any wise methods, declare that, 'Christian love alone can supplant war and promote peace. A love that is not a mere emotion, a tenderness awakened by human suffering, but an intelligent moral spiritual love, a perception and deep feeling of the sacredness of human nature, a recognition of the solemn rights of every human being.' This is the love that is to conquer. The love that stretched out its arms upon the Cross to lift us up. The love which, knowing nothing of rich or poor, high or low, bond or free, clears away every barrier which severs men from mutual sympathy and respect. Christ is the Prince of Peace. Through the truth He has taught, in the way He has shown we can turn the earth into a paradise, dry the tears of the suffering, establish love, fraternity, and true humanity. As the spirit of peace steals into our hearts this Christmastide let us for our own and all nations offer this prayer: 'Now the Lord of Peace Himself, give you peace always in all ways.'

—F. N. SHIMMIN.

## THE LOCAL PREACHER.

THE conquest of Berkshire by the pioneers of Primitive Methodism is one of the most thrilling romances of the heroic age of our denomination. But the soil of Berkshire had long been prepared for the introduction of a village revival in our warm-hearted forefathers. Two of the early battles of the Civil War, which preserved and extended our civil and religious liberties, were fought at Newbury. Going even further back, however, to the time of the Reformation, we find that Berkshire was prolific in martyrs for the 'faith once for all delivered to the saints.' One of our local preachers, Mr. J. H. Thompson, of the Newbury Circuit, has written a most interesting sixpenny brochure entitled *The Newbury Martyrs*. A copy has been sent to me, and I am informed that it can be obtained from the Newbury circuit Minister, Rev. T. Richards.

THERE is a warmly appreciative preface by Dr. John Clifford. The Newbury Martyrs take a foremost place in the great army of those who hazarded their lives for the Gospel of Christ; and Mr. Thompson has done a real service to our country and the Kingdom of God in giving us this instructive and interesting setting of their life and witness, suffering and work.

A DETAILED report of the examination of the martyrs before the consistory of Dr. Jeffrey on July 14th, 1556, in the choir of St. Nicholas Church, is given from notes taken by those who were present. The Martyrs were burned on July 16th. When the fire was kindled they lifted their hands quietly and cheerfully, and breathed out their lives in prayer to Jesus to strengthen them and receive their souls. Let us remember that to such men we owe our Protestant religion and the Non-conformity that has arisen out of it. It is a feather in the cap of Primitive Methodist lay preaching that one of our brethren should have revived so admirably the sacred memory of the Newbury Martyrs.

MR. WILLIAM ROWLAND, President of the South London Local Preachers' Association, and Superintendent of its Missions Committee, has sent me very interesting notes of the three years' increasingly successful work of the South London Missions. The mission band now consists of about forty members. A quarterly plan is made out of Sunday all-day missions, with, in some cases, services each evening of the week intervening between two full Sundays.

USUALLY five brethren are planned to a mission, with a leader whose business it is to make all arrangements for the conduct of the mission. The Church missioned is, of course, expected to do its part, but here in many cases there has been a weakness. The church seems to have expected the missionaries to bring a little revival with them, and has forgotten that revivals are the answers to prayer and to adequate spiritual preparation.

OPEN-AIR work plays a large part in these missions. After twenty minutes or so in prayer, the missionaries, with such local supporters as assemble, sally out at a quarter past ten and hold three or four short services at different stands, each service concluding with a hearty invitation to the indoor services. The indoor services, morning and evening, are of a thoroughly evangelistic character, two short addresses at each taking the place of the sermon. In the afternoon there is a prayer meeting, followed by more open-air work, and perhaps by a half-hour's mission service in the Sunday school. The missionaries meet again for prayer at a quarter to six and go out for another half-hour before the evening service. Outdoor work is continued throughout the winter. At Rotherhithe recently the missionaries held a meeting in the dense fog which enveloped London in its folds. Their experience is that such outdoor work is of the greatest blessing to themselves, and tunes them to the highest spiritual pitch for the subsequent service indoors.

THE crown of the day is the after meeting, at which the harvest of converts is gathered, and it has been a rich harvest. This meeting is 'conducted' as little as possible. The young people and the ladies are encouraged to claim and obtain their full share of the prayers and testimonies. One such service lately took the form of 'an old-fashioned love-feast,' which will long be remembered. Some five-and-thirty of the company rose and testified 'what great things the Lord had done for them.' Old Primitives, whose recollection of the connexion goes back half a century and more, have testified that in such meetings there has been the old fire and the old ring, which they had almost forgotten.

THE outdoor work has brought to the front a number of young men of the highest promise, and in the case of many of the older men it has developed an unsuspected capacity for brief, pithy, practical, and enthusiastic addresses to the miscellaneous audience that gathers around.

ANOTHER outcome of the missions has been a wonderful revival of the old hymns, and it is astonishing with what fervour the hymns, on whose wings were born heavenwards the souls of our forefathers, are sung again by the old folk, and how attractive they prove to the young folk, who, but for the missions, would never have heard them.

THERE can be no better work for the Local Preachers' Associations that are being formed than to constitute similar missions' committees, which will find work enough to satisfy even the most energetic and willing of the locals. It is ridiculous to say that it is not worth while a local preacher studying to improve himself because there is no work for him to do. Such mission services can be multiplied to any extent. It is not good for the Primitive Methodist local preacher to box himself up in the chapel. Let him go out into the open among the people, and learn how to preach effectively to them, and he will find that his pulpit power for the work in the chapel will be raised within a year or two to a height of which his congregations had deemed him incapable of reaching.

ZETA.

ALL communications for this column should be addressed—ZETA, the Leader Office, 73 Farringdon Street London, E.C.

## Musical Notes.

My good friend, the Rev. George Ayre, who is secretary of the National C.E. Convention to be held at Leeds next Whit-week, has at my request forwarded me a copy of the Convention Herald containing the first draft of praise service. The title is—'The Praise of the Churches, or the Catholicity of Christian Hymnology.'

The Service opens with the *Te Deum* (No. 1 in C.E. Hymnal)—that most ancient and catholic of Christian hymns. After prayer by the chairman (Rev. J. S. Hainstock), the leader conducts a concerted reading of Psalm cxlv. The Church's Hymnaries an example of true Christian unity—our minor differences forgotten when we sing Jehovah's praise. Jesuit and monk alike have taught us what to sing—a fitting introduction to these hymns is St. Ambrose's *Invocation to the Holy Spirit* (No. 103). The Tractarian movement in England—Newman's and Faber's contributions to modern hymnody—*Pilgrims of the Night* (No. 164), is sung by the choir of 500 voices to a new setting by H. E. Nichol, Mus. Bac.

Anglican hymn-writers (1) among the Bishops—Ken, Heber, Wordsworth, How, Bickersteth, &c. Moule's *My glorious Victor* (No. 181); (2) among the Clergy—Lyte, Aitken, &c.—Fox's missionary hymn, *I hear ten thousand voices* (No. 476). These two hymns will be taken by the choir, with the exception of the last verse in the latter hymn.

The Scottish Presbyterian Church, noted for its use of the psalms of David—the best known and most frequently sung, *The Shepherd Psalm* (No. 468); Horatious Bonar and Norman Macleod, *Courage, brother!* (No. 268).

The Reformation in Germany and its contribution to our Hymn-books—John Wesley's translations—Goethe and Luther—*Ein Feste Burg* (No. 384), the Marseillaise of the Reformation. The kindred community of the Moravian brethren—Zinzendorf, the leader of the xviii century. Bishop Hasse, our beloved fellow-Endeavour and President this year; his hymn of consecration *Thine, Lord, we are* (No. 202).

The English Independents, the real founders of English hymnody—Milton, Baxter, Bunyan, Doddridge and Watts—*Come, let us join our cheerful songs* (No. 37). Their contemporaries, the Baptists, the first to perceive the full principle of liberty of conscience—establishment of the first church in London, 1611—Beddome, Tate, and Brady.—Fawcett's hymn stands highest in the esteem of Endeavourers, *Blest be the tie that binds* (No. 381).

The Evangelical revival of the xviii century and its fruit in Christian Hymnology—Charles Wesley, 'the sweet singer of Methodism,' the most prolific of all hymn-writers—*Jesu lover of my soul* (No. 251). At the opposite pole of religious thought, the Unitarians—Sir John Bowring and Miss S. F. Adams, *Nearer, my God, to Thee* (No. 191).

The Society of Friends, 'the gentleness that maketh great' their founder, George Fox, the prophet of the Puritan age—Whittier, the Quaker Poet of America, and his plea for Christian unity, *We may not climb* (No. 110).

The gallant Principality, scene of the great Welsh Revival, brings up the rear—Jones, Harries, and Christmas Evans—Welsh melodies mostly in the minor key—*Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah* (No. 160).

Our tale nearly told—the praise of the church upon earth a foretaste of the song of the redeemed in heaven—no trace of 'ism' in these songs—essentially one in spirit as in song. Harken to the voice that cometh out of the throne, 'Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him.' One day we shall join that multitude before the throne and sing the glorious chorus learned on earth—*Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth*. The service closes with the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*.

Judging solely by the information given above, the difficulty will be to keep the interest of a congregation, as there are so many hymns. Mr. Ayre says, however, that some of the hymns are to be sung to special anthem settings. Yorkshire is expected to give us a good (very good) Praise Service, and the outline suggests a capital time for Endeavourers next Whit-week.

## THE ORON INSTITUTE.

### Need for Books and Games.

THE Rev. W. J. Ward did not let the grass grow under his feet after landing in Africa, for within a fortnight he had got the Institute into fair working order, and at the end of six weeks (October 28th) he had eighteen students. Our church during recent years has made rapid strides in this part of Africa, and there are now six native churches in various stages of erection in different towns. The embarrassing question is, How are these going to be supplied with accredited native agents? This makes the Institute, with its avowed purpose of training, such a prime necessity. One of the pressing needs of this worthy and necessary Institution is a good library. Here is the full catalogue up-to-date, a few monthlies, one copy of John Ploughman's talk, two copies sixpenny edition of Joseph Bird's 'Jesus of Nazareth.' This will not do, and we at home must see to it, and that right speedily, that our young native preachers are given every opportunity when at college to read the best books. Christmas time is a most opportune one for remedying this defect. Therefore why not at once

### Send out a Library.

Gifts of books new and old will be welcome. Most of us could spare at least one copy from our libraries or else afford to buy a new volume for this estimable object. We must not see these young coloured students want for books.

All of us need recreation, as do these young Africans, and in the day room at the Institute there is only one set of draughts. Gifts of

### Indoor Games

would also be acceptable.

It would be a real help to our hard working missionary, Rev. W. J. Ward, if by the end of this year we could send out a parcel of at least 100 books, and also a good assortment of games.

Miss Scruton, daughter of Rev. J. Scruton, Swinefleet, R.S.O. Yorks, has already secured some articles, and will gladly forward all goods sent to her.

Books, games, etc., will be gladly received by  
MR. STAFFORD B. WHITEBY,  
Charles Street, Hull.

## Centres of Work.

### London First District

COMMITTEES met at the Book Room on the 8th inst., the Rev. T. J. Gladwin presiding. A report of the visit of a deputation to Luton in reference to circuit boundaries was received. The Building Committee sanctioned applications from the Richmond Station to the Chapel Loan Fund, Hammersmith Station to the General Chapel Fund, and the Harringay Circuit to the Hartley Fund for the London Debt Reduction. Sanction was given for the sale of a site at Forest Gate, in view of a more suitable plot being secured, and the Iron Church transferred. A balance sheet of alterations at Gambingay, in the St. Neots circuit, was received, the whole of the outlay has been raised. The C. E. Committee considered the appeal from the Central Council in reference to the annual expenditure of the Oron Institute, and decided to lay the matter before all the Societies. The special appeal from the Orphanage Committee for funds toward the Harrogate Site, in addition to the regular subscriptions, was before the meeting, and is to be placed before all the Sunday School authorities.

### London Second.

THE Committees met at Surrey Chapel and there was a large attendance. The Rev. F. Pickett, presided. The report of the deputation re the union of Northfleet and Galley Hill with some contiguous station was presented by the Rev. T. Saunders. Its recommendation, that Northfleet and Dartford be approached with a view to union, is to be forwarded for consideration by the circuits concerned, and by the Missions District Committee. There is considerable hope of this union being consummated. Permission was given to reinstate a local preacher who, after service in Canada, is being appointed to Penge circuit as lay agent. He will reside at Bromley, where an important work of extension is contemplated.

Encouraging reports were given by the Rev. T. Peatfield concerning the chapel affairs of the Rotherhithe and Deptford circuit, and the Rev. I. Brentnall was congratulated upon progress made. The Missionary Secretary reported that steps were being taken to secure a Mission Van for use in the District next year.

### Sheffield.

ON the 12th inst. a long session of the committees was held in Bethel chapel, Cambridge street, Mr. J. Topliss presiding. The business of the Building Committee was introduced by the Rev. P. Nume. Alfreton circuit applied for sanction to purchase a site on which to erect new premises in place of the Derby Road church, which has been damaged by land subsidence. The site contains 600 square yards, and the price is £120. An application from the same circuit for authority to receive an unsectarian chapel at Lea Brook, which had been offered to them by the managers, led to a long discussion. As the proposal included the taking over of a school-chapel, which was in course of erection at a cost of £600, and which it was proposed to convey to the connexion on the Model Chapel Deed, a deputation was appointed to visit the place and report to the next meeting. A balance sheet of South Normanston chapel, in the Alfreton circuit, showed that £1,093 had been expended in the erection of an organ and the necessary alterations, towards which £643 had been raised. A balance sheet of the Sunday school and institute at Walkley showed the outlay to have been £3,556 17s. 3d., and towards which £1,747 had been raised, was accepted as satisfactory, and the trustees and ministers were congratulated. The trustees of the Staveley church presented the balance sheet of the restoration fund of the church after its destruction by fire, which showed an expenditure of £2,221, and an income of £1,696 11s. 10d., and the success of the minister and trustees was heartily recognised. An application for sanction to present an appeal to the General Chapel Fund for a grant in aid of the Wellgate chapel, Rotherham, led to a long discussion. The property originally cost £5,452, and the debt is now £2,580. Notwithstanding strenuous efforts by the church, the yearly deficit on the ordinary working had exceeded £100. An effort was being organised locally to raise £500, and a grant of £100 from the General Chapel Fund was requested towards that amount. As a promise of £100 had been made conditional on £1,000 being secured, the scheme was enlarged to that amount and grant solicited increased to £150.

The trustees of the Highfield Road church, Doncaster Second circuit, having purchased 1,200 yards of land on which to erect new premises, asked for a free loan of £1,000 from the Church Extension Fund. The business of the Missionary Committee was introduced by the Rev. S. Barker. A proposal to purchase land for a new chapel at South Elmsall was explained by the Rev. W. Cutts. In consequence of the sinking of a large colliery rapid development is taking place, and the existing premises are inadequate to meet the religious needs of the village.

### Liverpool District

THE committees met in Prince's Avenue Church, Liverpool, on Thursday, the Rev. John Dudley presiding. There was a crowded audience. Plans were sanctioned for the erection of the new church in Derby Road, Southport, to cost £8,000. New trustees were sanctioned for the Blackburn First circuit. The Ellesmere Port Church reported that the local Education Authorities were prepared to take over their school premises for day school purposes at an annual rental of £50, and in addition to spend £800 on improvements in the property. The Education Committee would do this on condition that the premises were let to them for ten years, with the option of renewal of lease. They also would undertake to keep the fabric in repair and pay five-sixths of lighting, cleaning, etc., the trustees to retain the use of the premises for Sunday school and other purposes, as at present. This arrangement was sanctioned. A lengthy discussion took place on the District Church and School Extension Fund, and ultimately a small committee was appointed to consider the whole matter and report.

Deputations were appointed to visit the Preston Third and Ramsey circuits to deal with special circumstances in each case. The following were appointed delegates to the District Meeting in May next:—District Committee, Rev. J. D. Thompson; Building Committee, Rev. W. Moore; Missionary Committee, Rev. H. J. Taylor; Orphanage Committee, Rev. F. Smith; Local Preachers' Training Committee, Rev. W. Spedding. One pleasing item of business was the reception of

reports of very successful conventions held during the quarter in different parts of the district. A resolution congratulating Sir Edward Russell, editor of the 'Liverpool Daily Post,' upon the successful issue of his trial was passed. It was generally felt and expressed that Sir Edward had won a great victory for temperance reform in the country.

### Hull.

At the Hull District Sunday School Committee, held at Clowes Chapel, Hull, on Friday morning under the presidency of Rev. J. Scruton, a vote of thanks was unanimously sent to the examiners in the recent Scripture examination. The visit of the Rev. S. S. Henshaw to the Barton Circuit has been a great success, the chapel being packed.

In the afternoon all the Committees had Rev. R. Harrison for chairman. Rev. P. Peacock introduced the Building Committees business. The balance sheet of the Hawthorn Avenue new school-chapel in the Hull Fifth Circuit, was presented; the cost had been £4,878, and of this sum £2,439 was raised. A special vote of thanks was accorded unanimously to the ministers and officials for this splendid result.

Bridlington Quay reported the expenditure on buildings of £1,200. The society here has raised £630 in three years less than the time sanctioned.

The friends in Hull are forging ahead with chapel building. Sanction was accorded to Portobello Street, in the Hull Sixth Circuit, to build a beautiful school chapel, at a cost of £4,000, to seat 606 people. Rev. John Watts has got together a splendid band of trustees; amongst others we find Mr. Edwin Robinson, one of the most generous supporters; Mr. Councillor Rain, Mr. E. B. Robinson, son of Mr. T. Robinson, of Hurler, Mr. T. R. Sizer, the circuit steward, etc.

Rev. J. Shaw had charge of missionary matters and gladly noted the improving condition of the Howden Circuit, under its new minister, Rev. T. Featon. The Van missionary, having resigned, a suitable successor has been found in Mr. Elijah Witter, a local preacher from Bridlington. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Knaggs for his generosity in painting and decorating the van.

Active and energetic action is to be taken to see that the Education question is kept well to the front, and on the resolution of the secretary, Mr. Stafford B. Whitby, a circular is to be sent out calling upon our people to consider any candidate unsuitable who is not thorough on this vital question. A strong emergency committee has been specially elected to deal with this matter at the general Election. No compromise, but a fight to the finish is the wish of this important District.

### Nottingham District.

THE Nottingham District held its committee meeting on Wednesday, December 13th, in Canaan Church, the Rev. B. Haddon presiding. The business was introduced by Rev. M. Knowlson. Special attention was called to the decease of the late Mr. W. Clay, of Long Eaton. Mr. Clay had done long and valuable service for his district. The meeting also heard with very great pain of the loss which has overtaken Mr. T. Lawrence, of Leicester, in the death of his only son in America, and it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to the bereaved family. The Rev. E. Dalton, book steward, had a very hearty reception into the meeting. Mr. Dalton was present to speak on Book Room affairs, though he said he was there to gain information rather than give it. He said that he would be glad to try and answer any questions that might be asked, and strongly appealed to both laymen and ministers to render all possible assistance in making the Book Room business a great success. After lunch the missionary secretary, Rev. T. B. Caukwell, informed the meeting of various efforts that had been made by way of relieving certain needy stations within the district. In view of the coming general election, the Education Secretary, the Rev. R. W. Keightley, was instructed to prepare resolutions expressing our attitude on the Education Question, which resolutions were to be sent to the local papers and to the ministers in the district to be read to the congregations. It was also decided that suitable tracts should be secured and distributed within the District.

### Bristol.

OUR Monthly meeting was well attended. A special resolution on the Education question was passed, and the Secretary authorised to forward the same to the Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

Sanction was given to the officials of Midsomer Norton to purchase a central site, at a cost of £500, on which to erect a large chapel. Already they have in hand £300 toward the cost of the site. The Midsomer Norton officials have entered upon this aggressive work heartily. This new enterprise will doubtless be the means of making it a strong circuit.

### Sunderland and Newcastle.

THE Sunderland and Newcastle-on-Tyne District Committees met at Newcastle on Friday, under the presidency of the Rev. James Young. It was reported the new Hirst chapel building conditions had been complied with, and that the Ashington circuit quarterly meeting had engaged to be responsible for £150. Chevington Drift new school-chapel, to be erected at a cost of £700. Arrangements made with the Chapel Aid Association and Extension Funds.

Sanction was given for the alteration and enlargement of Bedlington Station chapel, at a cost of £400.

New pipe organs are to be installed at Tempest Place, Seaham Harbour, and Percy Main, in North Shields Circuit. In the first case it was reported that the whole of the money had been raised, and in the second case, the cost is to be obtained by the opening. The mortgage on Tatham Street Church is to be transferred to the Chapel Aid Association.

### Shrewsbury District.

THE Committee met at Oswestry, presided over by the Rev. Lucas J. Harvey. An encouraging report of the van missions was given. It was decided to communicate with the circuits, urging the officials and members to press forward the claim for absolute unsectarian education. The Rev. Thomas Wood and the Rev. Robert Curson were complimented on the stand they had taken in refusing to pay the sectarian portion of the Education Rate, and consequently having to suffer imprisonment.

## Table Talk.

MR. HORACE R. MANSFIELD, M.P., who, as is well known, is a local preacher in the Coalville Circuit, has been using his influence with the Foreign Office relative to the visit of the Rev. J. Pickett and Mr. Alderman Linfield to Fernando Po. The Foreign Office has been most obliging and diligent in dealing with Mr. Mansfield's representations. Communications were at once made by the Foreign Office with H.M. Ambassador at Madrid, Sir Arthur Nicholson. Sir Arthur immediately communicated with the Spanish Foreign Office and followed this up by a personal visit to the Under Secretary and to the chief official of the Colonial section, and was assured that full instructions would be forwarded to the Governor of the Island by the first mail. As yet there is no cable to Fernando Po or the Spanish authorities would have cabled forthwith. We may therefore rest assured that all consideration necessary and desirable will be given to the deputation on their visit to the island. The Church is greatly indebted to Mr. Mansfield for his good offices placed so freely at the disposal of his Church.

WE record to-day with profound sorrow the death in America of Mr. Tom Cromwell Lawrence, the only son of our esteemed African Missionary Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Lawrence, of Leicester. Widespread sympathy will be felt for Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and the sisters in the sad and irreparable loss. That one so gifted, so devoted to his art, and so full of promise should be called away in the morning of his upward career is one of those mysteries the mind cannot fathom. We can only wait the coming of fuller light. 'Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight.' The sorrow is all the more poignant in consequence of its suddenness, and that those who loved him so well were separated by such a great distance.

By the death of Mrs. Mules, which occurred at Bournemouth on December 2nd, at the age of 82, another link with the great souls of the past is broken. Her late husband, the Rev. James Mules, predeceased her by many years, but his name and goodness are still fresh and green in many hearts. James Mules was a gracious man and a faithful Methodist minister. Wherever he travelled he won lives to Jesus Christ, and his spiritual children still cherish his memory with holy affection. The finest tribute to a minister, to anyone, is this, to be revered long, long years after the earth has covered you up for your simple goodness and Christly character.

THE Chesterfield Students' Association is a gathering of the literary spirits of the town and neighbourhood, and holds its meetings in conjunction with the Oxford University Extension Lectures. The present course is on 'The Early History of Florence,' and between the lectures papers on related subjects are given by the members. On Tuesday the Rev. J. W. Fryer (superintendent of Chesterfield First circuit) read an essay on 'Savonarola.' The same subject had been dealt with by the lecturer, but whereas he regarded his hero in relation to the period in which he lived, Mr. Fryer concentrated his attention upon the man himself. He gave a scholarly analysis of the forces which make him what he was, and indicated the results which followed his teaching. The profound nature of the paper prevented anything like general discussion, but great appreciation was expressed, also a desire to have the monograph in permanent form.

THE visit of the Rev. F. B. Meyer, B.A., to Grimsby has made a profound impression. He addressed over 150 preachers for an hour and a half in the morning, delivered an important speech at the luncheon that followed, in which he clearly outlined the Education policy of the British Free Churches, preached to a great congregation in the afternoon, conducted in his unique way a Conference on Free Church life and work after tea, and closed the day with an effective speech to more than 1,000 people. Where does he get his strength from? Mr. Meyer told the writer he claims the literal fulfilment of the promise: 'He shall quicken your mortal body by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.'

THE Rev. Edwin Dalton visited Eastbourne on Friday, and gave a powerful lecture in the Pevensey Road Congregational Church on 'The Education Act, How it Works.' Mr. Dalton was not known, and few thought of hearing a Primitive Methodist minister, but all were greatly impressed by his knowledge of and skill in dealing with the question of the hour.

At the outset Mr. Dalton did not seem to be at home before a quiet audience in the South, but with homely wit, happy illustration, and amusing anecdote he stirred the audience; and when his hard facts, or strong statements, were questioned, he became perfectly free, and dealt with the subject in a masterly style. The people became thoroughly aroused, and he sat down amid loud applause. Mr. Dalton was pleased for it to be known that he was a Primitive Methodist minister, and the 'Primitives' present were proud of their representative. The audience thanked Mr. Dalton with great enthusiasm, and the hope was expressed that he would visit Eastbourne again.

THE decision of the Rev. M. S. Cushing to superannuate in July preages the completion of a ministry which is unique in our connexion. It has been almost exactly divided by a superannuation which lasted eighteen years. Yet the later ministry has been one of conspicuous success upon important and difficult stations.

Mr. Cushing was only 35 when paralysis necessitated his retirement from active work. But his pen continued busy, and it is interesting to recall that Arthur Pattison, the naturalist, did his first literary work when on an evening he copied out the chapters of 'Heart Spurs,' which Mr. Cushing, lying in bed, had pencilled during the day.

This was more than thirty years ago, when none guessed that the invalid would live to twice represent his district in Conference. Mrs. Cushing, herself a notable preacher, happily still lives to continue the comradeship commenced at Manchester nearly forty years back.

WE understand that Messrs. Willis and Holland, who belong to our church, have been engaged as Missioners by the Northumberland and Durham Free Church Federation and will commence operations at the close of their present winter's engagements. Mr. Willis has led a most eventful life. A few years ago, at his conversion, he could neither read nor write. Mr. Holland, the singing partner, was converted through the agency of his colleague, and left remunerative music-hall singing for evangelism.

THE Cirencester Circuit has just lost one of its oldest and most faithful officials. After 50 years of devoted service as local preachers and class leader, Brother Joseph Tilling was called to rest and reward. He was highly respected for his deep piety and practical goodness. It is gratifying to his widow to know that their only son is taking his father's place in our church.

THE Rev. James Travis visited Southport on Wednesday, and delivered a stirring address in the Town Hall on the Education Question. The meeting was held under the auspices of the local Passive Resisters League.

At the monthly communion service at Seymour Place the Rev. W. Lee gave the right hand of fellowship to six persons who were uniting with the church as a result of a very successful mission conducted by Mrs. Horton.

IN the event of the General Election taking place next month, it has been decided to postpone Dr. Horton's Convention for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire, which had been fixed to be held at Nottingham. All the arrangements for holding this, as the crowning convention in the series signalling the year of Dr. Horton's Presidency of the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches, were well in hand; but the great interests at stake in the General Election require that no effort shall be spared to secure on behalf of Education the full unfettered resources of Free Churchmen throughout the country.

THE Elmfield Old Boys Club held an enjoyable gathering on Tuesday, December 12th, at Savoy Cafe, Brown Street, Manchester. About twenty were present, Old Boys coming from Hull, Burnley, and Sheffield. The annual election of officers for the Manchester Centre took place as follows:—President, Mr. J. Eastwood; Treasurer, Mr. G. S. T. Livesey; Secretary, Mr. J. G. Buckley. The Governor of Elmfield, the Rev. G. F. Fawcett, delighted those present with his company, and in replying to the toast of 'Elmfield' outlined the advantages of Elmfield as a boarding school. He appealed for the financial support of Old Boys to assist in the clearing off of the debt.

THE opening of the Ride and Russell Memorial Chapel at Sheffield, on Wednesday, is a matter of more than local interest. Sheffield is now one of the societies in the Hungerford circuit, but formerly it was the centre whence the missionaries went out to establish societies over a wide area in the southern counties. The old building has been in use over seventy years, and comprised chapel and preacher's dwelling. It might be a salutary experience for present-day probationers just to peep into what is known as the 'young man's room.' The public ceremonies associated with the new chapel have been in keeping with the historic character of the place. At the opening of the Sheffield chapel the ven. Williams officiated. Mr. Williams is now in his seventy-sixth year, and spent some of his early ministry on the ground. At the stone-laying the pioneers were represented by the ven. George Thomas Phelps, of Hungerford. Mr. Phelps remembers the first missionaries, he being now in his eighty-sixth year. Among his reminiscences is one of a famous love-feast in '32, when 'the Glory' hovered over the congregation, so that for once it was seen as well as felt. We are glad to know that the premises will be opened practically free of debt.

OVER twelve months ago the Pendlebury society, Manchester, inspired by an offer of Mr. A. Carnegie to give £130 towards an organ, began to prepare for a Bazaar, which was recently held. We are glad to report that the entire sum necessary to be locally raised was received during the three days, and it is hoped that the new organ will be installed by the end of the Winter.

At the recent bazaar held at London Road, Reading, Miss Carrie J. Clacy had on sale an album of a most unique and interesting kind. The album contained many hundreds of quotations, among them being those of the leaders of the Free and other churches. The value of the album may be inferred from the fact that the sale produced £40 for the bazaar fund. Miss Clacy informs us that she has a few copies left, and that the album can be obtained from her at 'Stradbroke,' London Road, Reading, for one shilling.

THE Orphanage Treasurer, Mr. John Hewitson, gratefully acknowledges the receipt of £185 19s. 5d. from the executors of the late Rev. C. C. McKechnie. Gifts of clothing, toys, etc., for the Orphanage should be sent to Mr. C. F. Turner, The Orphanage, Alresford, Hants.

ON behalf of the Orphanage, the Rev. E. J. T. Bagnall writes commending the efforts made by our young people towards the support of the orphans and suggests that adults should also have an opportunity of contributing. Mr. Bagnall states that on his circuit Orphanage Envelope appeals, which are supplied gratis by the Book Room, are distributed in the chapels on a Sunday near Christmas. Friends are asked to remember the orphans and to bring their gifts the following Sunday. This method considerably aids the funds.

The prize for the best paragraph has been awarded to E. C. The prize next week will be a copy of the new and much talked of book by 'Kappa' entitled, 'Let Youth but Know,' published by Methuen at 3/6.

Paragraphs must pertain to Primitive Methodist news, either personal or relating to the Church, and must not exceed 150 words. Each communication should be sent to the Editor and be marked 'Prize,' and contain name and address.



## The Revival.

EVERTON ROAD, LIVERPOOL.

### GLORIOUS RESULTS.

By Rev. W. R. Bird.

SURELY nearly all people on the face of the earth know something of this city. Its principal streets are fine, its public buildings are magnificent, its parks are beautiful; but behind the splendour there are mean dirty courts and bye-ways, where life as low and wretched can be seen as in any corner of the habitable earth. One can see as much human wreckage here as anywhere, perhaps more. In a great trial this week, where Sir Edward Russell, the well-known leader and reformer, was the defendant, it was stated there was a public house to every three or four hundred inhabitants. Does not this simple fact explain much?

The Anglican Church is just building a cathedral at the cost of a quarter of a million. The Wesleyans have just opened a Garrett Memorial Central Hall at a cost of forty thousand pounds, and all other denominations in many ways are seeking to fight the common foe. Our own church has

#### Never yet taken its Rightful Place

because we for the central authorities have never grasped the situation. What ground can it be explained that little towns, stranded for years with non-progressive populations, and in some instances well supplied with churches, should be subsidized through long years, yet never yielding commensurate results, and a great city like this, with nearly a million people and ever growing, should scarcely be looked at. Our church is almost the unknown quantity, yet we have members and ministers as true as heroic as anywhere. The time is more than come when our great church should save its credit by doing something worthy of its name. The Rev. H. J. Taylor at Prince's Avenue, the Rev. W. Shipley at Boundary Street, the Rev. J. Dudley at Everton Road, the Rev. A. J. Wigley at Bootle, the Rev. J. Mayles at Aintree, with their colleagues, are working bravely for victory, but the best is relatively little by the side of the vastness of the city. I came to the Everton Road church, a large and even beautiful place. For some years there has been decadence, but once more it is reviving and bids well to be successful. The ten days were days of great power. On the first morning a considerable number came out for new surrender to Christ. In the afternoon a large number of young people expressed their desire to live the new life, and in the evening there were a few conversions of old and young.

At every week evening service we had conversions, some of a very remarkable kind. One young fellow from the neighbourhood of Newcastle, the

#### Son of a Deceased Local Preacher,

but who for two years had lived by betting, came out; another, a young Irishman, a hotel chef, and another a young tradesman, whose case was full of pathos. On the Saturday night we had a torch-light procession. A leading official said during thirty years' residence he had not seen a religious procession to equal it. It was estimated that at several points there were quite

#### Two Thousand People,

and the meeting that followed was most remarkable. The service was full of the old-timed convicting, converting power. About twenty-five men that night came out to the communion rail for conversion. That night two big fine fellows, unknown to each other, were in the company, they afterwards recognised each other as brothers. One man who came out, though I don't know if he was saved—he almost despaired of himself—was an ex-convict, and had a most awful story to tell. He told me how difficult it was to live a new life. Every policeman and magistrate was, notwithstanding his sincere desire for reform, down upon him and holding him in suspicion. On Sunday it was again a time of spiritual power from morning till night, the congregations being much larger than had been seen for years. And other results were won. In the afternoon at the Men's Meeting

#### A Man came out Sobbing

bitterly, but subsequently said he felt the new life was born within him. One sister came with joy to tell me the husbands of two of her sisters had come to Christ during these days of ingathering. The Bible Readings were well attended and warmly appreciated. It was most wisely arranged to continue the services after my leaving.

The Rev. J. Dudley and Mr. Wightman, his excellent colleague, rendered me the greatest support and help. Quite a number of friends came from other churches, from Birkenhead, Southport, and elsewhere, to share in the joy of harvest. Mr. Pandells, his choir, and some excellent soloists were instant in season and out of season. But words are inadequacy itself in my desire to acknowledge the presence and work of the Holy Spirit—it is ever He who wins the victory.

#### The C.E. Holiday Tours.

Primitive Methodist Christian Endeavours have held some happy holiday gatherings during the last few years, and few thought that this idea of co-operative holiday would develop so rapidly as it has done. This year a week is to be spent at Keswick, and no more charming centre could be chosen for such a purpose. The terms are as usual, exceedingly low, considering the first class accommodation secured. The charge is 29s. for a week, or, for short periods, 4s. 9d. per day, with arrangements for cheap train fares. This year it is announced that in addition to the regular tour a week in 'lovely Lucerne' is being arranged, the fee for which is five guineas, including fares, chalet accommodation, etc. Mr. D. Driver, 14 Holker Street, Keighley, Yorkshire, is deposit fund treasurer, and Endeavourers may commence sending deposits towards the fee at once. All further information will be supplied by the Rev. W. Spedding, or the Arrangements Secretary, the Rev. G. G. Martindale, 45 Breedon Hill Road, Derby.

## THE GREAT INGATHERING.

By the Side of an Old Field Hand.

(By the Rev. F. W. Beal.)

'THE Lord hath visited his people.' That message of faith, accompanied by the photograph of the Rev. J. Odell, were the first tidings to the people of Long Eaton that a great spiritual revival was about to take place. By much prayer and hard work the Church prepared itself. The whole town was allotted into districts and almost every house canvassed by willing workers. Public-houses, workshops, and one dining-room, where there were gathered 250 men, were entered and, the meetings advertised. Mr. Odell reflects his soul in his face, and

#### His sunny, smiling Photograph

proved an admirable forerunner of the man himself. This, no doubt, had much to do with the large congregations which gathered night by night.

The workers gathered in the Bourne School-room on Saturday night for the purpose of prayer and welcome. The missionary met with many old friends, and it was an inspiration to the young friends to witness the shaking of hands and to hear the shouts of their fathers in the Lord. At this meeting both missionary and workers made 'a clean platform for God.' Mr. Odell's passionate appeals and wise advice were sandwiched between praise and testimony, and after a chain of earnest prayer we went home to await the arrival of the morrow.

It came, and there was sunshine within and without. The seal of God was upon the first service. A children's meeting in the afternoon gave an opportunity for 20 bright lads, from 12 to 16 years of age, to give their young hearts to Christ. And their newly-found joy was soon made practical. Many during the week were in conspicuous evidence, some praying for their class mates, and others for wayward mothers and fathers.

#### Yes! Sunday was a Great Day,

but only a foretaste of what was to come.

Each successive night witnessed larger congregations and intenser power, whilst Mr. Odell both 'warned' men against sin and 'wooed' them to Christ. The awfulness of sin and the wonderful love of Christ were the notes of every discourse.

On Wednesday night the altar rail was crowded, some seeking the Saviour for the first time, others for renewed consecration. Many birthdays were chronicled that night for Christ. A Spiritual Wedding Service was conducted by the missionary on Thursday night. This was greatly owned of God, and many who had been content with a superficial religious life now sought and found a fuller salvation. Friday was the Honeymoon night. Hearts proclaimed with gladness what the Lord had done for them. At this meeting

#### A Whole Band of Young People

from our Sawley Society marched boldly out for a deeper baptism of Grace.

On Saturday a good company sat down to partake of a 'Faith Tea.' An open-air demonstration followed. About one hundred processioned the streets. At the meeting which followed the high-water mark was reached. Old hands say they have witnessed nothing like it at Bourne Chapel for years. God's new recruits met the old soldiers. There was no doubt in the testimonies. All were fully assured of the work of Grace which Christ had begun in them. Tongues were unloosed which had been publicly silent for years.

At 7.30 a.m. on Sunday a prayer meeting was held. Soon the vestry, which had been prepared, was too small, and we adjourned into the chapel. Sunday was the day of Christ's Public Reception. Christ offered His card to us at the morning's service, and Mr. Odell, with powerful effect, urged our acceptance of it. The chapel was full at night, and the service was the crowning one for spiritual power. A never-to-be-forgotten meeting crowned the day.

Thus ended one of the most successful series of services that have been held in the history of Bourne Church. Few outsiders have been gathered in, but many old members have returned. Scores of our young people have sought and found a fuller salvation. We now have a consecrated choir to lead our singing.

In Mr. Odell's own words, this mission has proved the most successful of all the series.

## WILLIS AND HOLLAND

at Easington Lane.

### Great Crowds. Many Saved.

DURING the past fortnight great has been the upheaval at Easington Lane. Many followers of the evangelists, Messrs. Willis and Holland, will be glad to know of the success attending their labours. Thousands of people bless God for the day Brother Willis was led to the cross and found salvation.

During the first few days of the mission at Easington Lane the interest deepened, and at the first week end

#### The Building was Crowded

an hour before the time, and such was the crowd that another large meeting had to be held in the school-room.

When the appeal was given for those who were willing to give themselves to the Lord, no less than 63 made their way to the front asking and pleading for mercy. Some of the most degraded and most desperate characters were to be found among this number. One man in particular, who was at this time training for a contest, said, 'Do you think He can save me, I am training to box?' The preacher, who is accustomed to deal with such characters, said,

#### 'I don't care what You are,

or what you are training to be, if you are willing to give up all for Christ He will save. The man fell and cried to God, and God heard him cry, and saved him. There is much cause for rejoicing in Easington Lane to-day. Fathers and mothers are rejoicing because their sons and daughters are being saved.

The missionaries commenced at Hetton on December the 16th, where they are anticipating great things being done.

## IN THE DAY'S WORK.

### Kettering Forward Movement.

THE Pontypool friends requested me to take a Mission at Park Terrace church, they, on their part, readily undertaking to give a lift to our great Kettering undertaking. The services were full of new revealings. On the second Sunday afternoon, at the children's gathering, the front was filled with upwards of 20 young people giving themselves to the Saviour, while amongst the adults won in these was on each Sunday evening a case of striking character—a strong man, bound in the evil bands of the drink and gambling fiends, having his cords broken by the power of Christ. One thrilling instance there was, too, an open confession of Christ on the part of a young man hitherto but privately a Christian. There are rich resources and fine possibilities in this church.

It was an inexpressible pleasure to be for the first time

#### Since the College days

in yoke-fellowship with my old friend the superintendent minister. No one seized the flowing tide in the Revival last year more fully than the Rev. B. Arnfield; no man flung himself with more abandon into the arduous and multiplying ministries its advance involved. This is but his second year in the station, and yet he has had the joy of reporting since his coming an increase of nearly 200 members.

Night by night we missioned in the streets before the service in the church, and twice we turned out after service as a congregation, marching and singing down into the centre of the town, and preaching the Gospel to a large crowd well into the night.

To see Mr. Arnfield leading in such storming of the fort as this was mighty. His dash and daring are infectious; he literally flings himself at the position. The sort of man one would love to have in assaulting a breach is my friend; evangelistic attack is the very breath of life to him. The second Sunday evening mission through the town was superb. Such masterly confidence and sense of victory as there was in its majestic sweep and song up the steep street to the church I have rarely seen surpassed.

Within the fortnight

#### We have had about 25 meetings,

and after the sermon on the second Sunday, from 7.30 to 9.30, the meeting was of the true Welsh Revival sort. Unled of men, we left it to the Holy Ghost to lead the people on to pray or sing or speak, and throughout there was no single moment's waning of the interest or flagging of the zeal.

Mr. F. James, the society steward, wrought unceasingly and cheerily to make my visit successful, and he presided in capital fashion at the lecture. Nowhere have we found a friend more whole-souled and enthusiastic for our Kettering enterprise. Major Ford, organist and leader, proved a sympathetic and onerous helper as well as efficient co-worker. Mrs. Maslean, Mrs. Langdon, Miss Vaux, Miss Stead, and Mr. S. Maslean sang the Gospel with power and grace, while Mr. E. Langdon and Mr. E. Morgan were stalwart standard bearers both indoors and out, Messrs. Tanner, Amos, Pearse, Heath, Council, Bees, Taylor, and a host of others assisting with fine devotion. Mr. E. Langdon, in whose home I was delightedly at home, is the secretary of the Free Church Council, and began this week his presidency of the C.E. Union. Mr. E. Morgan is the president of the Sunday School Union. Folks such as these one would fain work with in mission service in perpetuity.

#### With a Magnificent lead of £10

from our chairman, Mr. James, the collections and a tea given by lady friends, the effort reached the sum of £22 17s. 6d. At very short notice we had a lecture also at Pontnewynydd, where the Rev. Mr. Woodley, the able probationer of the circuit, was with us. Mr. W. Reynolds presided, and the collection was £1 14s. 6d. On a former visit Abersychan did £3 16s. 2d., so Pontypool station did a brave stroke for us. On Thursday by the kindness of the Rev. R. Lush and his leaders I told our story at Abertillery, and they gave us £2 12s. 7d. Mr. Lush, with great consideration, undertook the arrangements with only a day or two of notice, and with lack of advertising the congregations and collection were remarkable. So God leads and the day's work goes on. All thanks to Him and the friends who helped so beautifully.

59 Charles Street, Kettering.

G. BICHENO.

## Rev. J. TOLEFREE PARR.

### Mission at Worcester.

A most successful Mission has just been held in Worcester by the Rev. J. Tolefree Parr, under the auspices of Worcester and district Free Church Council.

The inaugural meeting was held in our George Street Church and on Saturday, November 25th, when Mr. W. Park, the newly elected President of the Council, presided and offered a welcome on behalf of the Council to Mr. Parr. Despite the unfavourable weather, there was a large attendance of workers.

The other services were held in the large Public Hall. The attendance at the Bible Readings in the afternoon and the Public Services at night was most satisfactory, between 300 and 400 attending the former, while the large hall was crowded each night.

On the second Sunday afternoon, after a splendid procession through the streets, a mass meeting of men only was held,

#### When quite One Thousand Men

filled the hall and listened to a telling address by Mr. Parr on 'Masks and Faces.' On Monday, December 4th, the last day of the Mission, Mr. Parr delivered his ever Popular lecture on 'Eight Years' Work in Darkest London.' Mr. W. Park again presided, and moved a resolution of grateful thanks to God, and of appreciation of the helpful services rendered to the religious life of the City by Mr. Parr, at the same time presenting him, on behalf of the F.C.C., with a handsome Royal Worcester Porcelain Vase.

Mr. Parr thankfully acknowledged the unexpected present. During the mission about 150 persons, most of them

#### Fine Young Men and Women,

have made a public confession of Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, and about 200 Temperance pledges taken.

Mr. Parr has made a splendid impression on Worcester, and the hope is generally expressed that he may hold another mission next Autumn.

## Ministerial Changes & Engagements.

The Rev. T. Sykes, of Hull, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Newcastle-on Tyne First circuit to succeed the Rev. A. T. Guttery in 1908.

The Rev. H. Errington will remain at Morley until 1907. He has, however, intimated his decision to leave the circuit at that date.

The Rev. B. Fell has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Southport First circuit to remain a fourth year, 1906-7. Mr. Fell has intimated to the circuit his purpose to leave at the 1907 Conference.

The Rev. J. Biggs remains at Wangford until 1907, when he has decided to change.

The Rev. W. Dickenson has accepted the unanimous invitation to remain at Knowlwood until 1907.

The Rev. H. Yooll has accepted the invitation to superintend the Manchester Fourth station, Higher Ardwick, at the next Conference.

In 1907 the Rev. G. Armstrong will leave the Gateshead First station and will succeed the Rev. J. N. Graham at Sunderland First.

The Rev. A. E. Proctor remains a third year at Bristol Second.

The Rev. J. Goldthorpe has consented to remain as superintendent of Grimsby Second for a fourth year, 1906-7, but purposes leaving at the close of that connexional year.

The Rev. L. Kemish has decided to leave the Plumstead (London) circuit in July, 1906, when he will complete his probation.

The Rev. J. H. Hirst, of York, has accepted the unanimous invitation to succeed the Rev. G. Bennett at Ebenezer Church, Hull First, in 1907.

At the December quarterly meeting of the Wakefield Second circuit Rev. A. Ward intimated that while he accepted the invitation for the next connexional year with pleasure, it was his intention to remove from the circuit in July 1907.

Rev. R. B. Goodwin has accepted the invitation to remain on Glasgow First circuit 1906-1907.

The Rev. G. H. Howgate has consented to stay at Folkestone a second year, 1906-7.

The Rev. M. Dobinson has accepted the invitation of the Clay Cross Station to remain a third year, 1906-7.

Rev. J. Strong is leaving Middleton-in-Teesdale in 1906 after four years' successful service, and has not yet accepted an invitation.

The Rev. T. Wood has decided to leave his present station, Wem, in July, 1906.

The Rev. J. H. Cretnay has decided to leave the Horwich Station in 1906, at the end of his second year.

The Rev. Lewis Hancock has accepted a unanimous invitation to remain on the Burslem Circuit until the close of his probation, July 1907, when he will be leaving.

The Rev. T. Humphries remains at Bath First for a second year.

Rev. A. E. Willcox has accepted a unanimous invite to superintend next year Northampton First Circuit.

The Rev. J. Griffin will leave the Burslem Station in July, 1907, when he will have completed six years' service on the circuit.

The Rev. A. E. Proctor has accepted the invitation of the Bristol Second Station to remain a second year, 1906-7.

The Rev. W. Holland has accepted the invitation of the Aberdare Circuit for another year, 1906-7.

The Rev. J. A. Wales has accepted a unanimous invitation to superintend the Leake circuit a third year.

The Rev. J. H. Dixon, though receiving a hearty and unanimous invitation to travel on the Appleby Branch of the Brough circuit a third year, has decided to leave at the Conference of 1906.

The Rev. W. S. Bosence remains a third year at Bath First, 1906-7.

Rev. C. Dunham removes from Chalfont St. Giles in July next, and is not at present fixed.

The Rev. W. Fido leaves Keighley Second at the Conference of 1907 for York First.

Rev. Joseph Wellings has accepted a unanimous invitation to superintend the Hammersmith Station for a fifth year. He has intimated his intention of leaving the circuit in 1907.

At York Second Rev. E. Challenger, of Whitby, will succeed Rev. J. H. Hirst as superintendent.

### Berkhamstead.

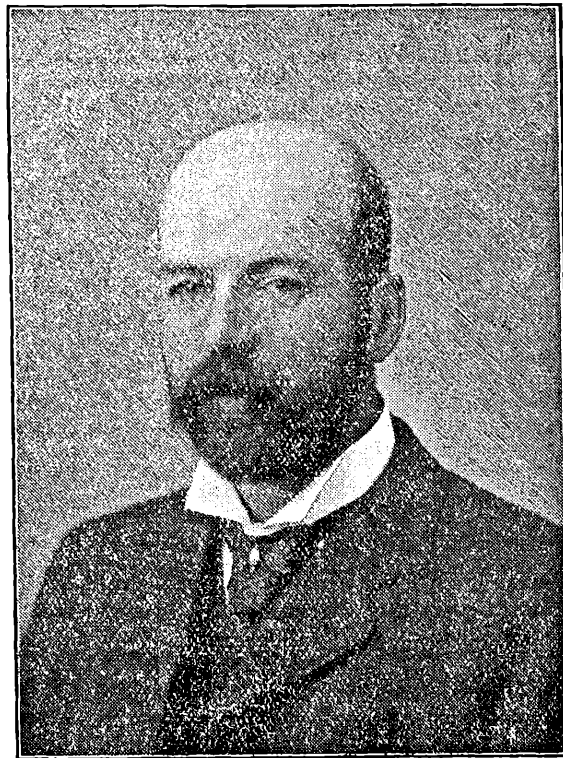
The Berkhamstead chapel and Sunday school premises were enlarged and modernised in 1898, and while much money was then raised, a debt of over £750 remained. At the end of 1903 the debt was £715. To deal with this was the task that confronted the Rev. W. Jones-Price when he entered this circuit in July 1904. He immediately organised a series of 'Special Efforts.' Mrs. Price also commenced to collect weekly pennies, and has handed in £25. A sale of work was held on the 6th and 7th inst., and opened on the first day by Miss K. Marnham, and on the second day by Mr. Thomas Keller. We have now met all demands and paid £60 off the debt. Since the Rev. W. Jones-Price came to this station, our congregations, membership and enthusiasm have all steadily continued to improve.

### INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUPS

are now used in over 200 prominent English Churches, and it is noticed that people who, from hygienic scruples, previously passed the cup untasted, will readily take Communion from an Individual Communion Cup. These cups are securely fitted in trays and are convenient to carry. They are unbreakable, are no trouble to clean, and are, above all, inexpensive. With the filling appliance you can fill 200 cups with wine in less than five minutes. CUP RECEIVERS also supplied for pew backs. Illustrated Booklet and full particulars free.

Mr. OWEN, Westerfield, Ipswich.

## Men of the Morning.



Rev. J. Wardman Venables.

A THOROUGHLY efficient superintendent of a large Primitive Methodist circuit must be a man of varied gifts and acquirements. He must be a preacher, or he cannot command the entire respect of the large staff of local preachers who look up to him for inspiration and guidance. This can hardly be if they feel themselves his superior in the pulpit. Then he must possess a decided gift of administration and a great faculty for detail. This requires a large insight in relation to character, and the power of managing men. Blending with this there must be a touch of statesmanship, a certain largeness of view, and a prudent calculation of chances. It is not always of the immediate future such a man has to think; he must occasionally be prepared to lay foundations upon which he can never hope to build himself, but which will make all the difference in the world to a successor's opportunity of 'rolling the old chariot along.' On a large station the making of the circuit plan will of itself give abundant scope for many of these qualities. It is a work of art. To put a staff of from perhaps fifty to a hundred local preachers into the right places, and to keep all working smoothly, might well turn some men's hair grey, and reduce others to a condition of nervous prostration. To your born superintendent

### It is a positive exhilaration.

He revels in it. He finds scope for his many gifts, and when the thing is finally before him in its perfected form, after leaving the hands of the printer, he regards it with much of the fondness with which the man of letters regards the product of his literary genius. Those of our readers who did not see the humorous and altogether delightful sketch of a plan-making which appeared in our columns during the autumn, missed a treat.

Large circuits are always on the look out for superintendents of this type among the Men of the Morning, and when they get hold of one they rejoice as those who have taken great spoil. It is to a man of this distinguished class we have to introduce our readers in the present article. The Wisbech Station plan is a formidable document. Its superficial area is well on for three hundred square inches. And this is not surprising when we discover that it has twenty-five preaching places, and with auxiliaries just one hundred preachers. Then there are elaborate arrangements for harvest thanksgivings, conventions for the deepening of the spiritual life, revival meetings, chapel anniversaries, juvenile missionary meetings, missionary meetings and temperance Sunday. The man who works a big circuit like this, and edits a circuit magazine with a circulation of eleven hundred, requires to be what is called an 'all-round man.' The present superintendent has been

### Over Nine Years on the Station,

during six of which he served an apprenticeship under the able superintendency of the Rev. Arthur W. Edwards. If we are to escape the wrath and maledictions of the present superintendent we must give Mr. Edwards full credit for much of what has been accomplished on the station during recent years. It is of immense service to a young man to fall into the hands of a capable superintendent, and the Rev. J. Wardman Venables has been specially favoured in this respect. He is ever anxious to acknowledge his deep indebtedness to them and to his early home influences. His first superintendent as a probationer was the Rev. Arthur T. Wardle, whose help and example were simply invaluable.

Mr. Venables was born forty-one years ago, on the Oswestry Circuit, at Welsh Frankton. He is a Primitive Methodist of

the third generation, his grandfather having been a class leader, while his parents for years held services in their house, which was also the 'home' of the preachers. Very familiar in that household were the names of Ferguson, Perry, Timmins, Howlett, Biggs, and others, and the little boy made friends of them all. He was sent to Elmfield College during the Governorship of Thomas Smith and when Mr. Russell was Head Master. It was a privilege to be under the influence of such men—Smith of the gentle heart and the silver tongue; Russell the fine scholar and the true gentleman. Knowing them well, the writer is glad of this opportunity in the far off years of doffing his hat to them both. On leaving Elmfield Mr. Venables went into business in Oswestry, where his parents now resided. Here he became a voracious reader of fiction, and revelled especially in Kingsley and Macdonald, so that his taste was evidently for the best type of fiction. He was also a devotee of athletics, a Providential preparation, no doubt, for the management of a circuit 22 miles long and 17 broad. When seventeen he was converted during some revival services conducted by the resident minister, the Rev. R. Wycherley, and the local brethren. Many of the converts of that revival are doing good work to-day. Mr. Wycherley directed the young convert's theological studies and got his name upon the plan. After brief residences in Hanley and Manchester, our friend removed to London, where he came under the inspiring influence

### Of the Rev. Thomas Guttery,

at whose suggestion it was decided to abandon business and become a candidate for the ministry. As a hired local preacher he went to High Wycombe, where he laboured till the District Meeting of 1888, under the Revs. R. Andrews and Charles Higgins. His success at the candidates' examination gave him the opportunity of going to College, but he elected to go straight into the ministry. As there were no vacancies, he was sent by the General Missionary Committee as assistant to Rev. John Smith at Yarmouth. By the following Conference he was stationed at Cambridge First; thence to Wymondham, where he had an excellent superintendent in the Rev. George Rudram. Here a fine revival took place. His next station was Whitechurch, with the Rev. William Hall, a capital tutor in circuit work. In 1896 he came to Wisbech, his present station, where he has, along with the colleague already mentioned, witnessed remarkable and continuous prosperity. Here he has found ample scope for his gifts of administration, and the training of early years is bearing splendid fruit.

Turning now to his intellectual development, we find that after the period in which he ran riot through the volumes of Kingsley and George Macdonald came one of mental treadmill with the sainted John Petty and David Thomas as mentors. Then George Adam Smith introduced the young preacher to a new world, and Newman Smyth became his ethical guide. Following them came the influence of

### Horton and Dale and Fairbairn,

all contributing something to his intellectual development. Later came the period when affairs and the management of men absorbed the young superintendent's time and thought, and his education ran on the lines of experience and observation. As a preacher, he has the gift of ready, natural, fluent speech. There is nothing musty about his sermons; they indicate preparation, but never smell of the midnight oil. His sympathies are too much with the joys and sorrows, the difficulties and trials of living men for that. Now and then there is a touch of oratory as befits a true Salopian, and the glow of imagination will illumine his speech ever and anon as might be expected in one whose early passion was the great masters of spiritual imagination.

### He is eminently sociable

and clubbable, and he will not grow melancholy from a lack of the perception of the humorous aspects of human life and character. When he can manage it he will, in summer, renew his acquaintance with the athletics of earlier years by joining the young fellows at a game of cricket. If he had had any Jacobs in his flock they might have looked askance at this; but they are apparently all so far Esau as to be filled with delight at this fresh evidence that their pastor is a man and a brother. Precisely what the ancient worthies might think of this young superintendent in these respects may be a matter of doubt, but of the whole-hearted earnestness with which he throws himself into the work of his big station and the material and spiritual success he there achieves they could have nothing but warm appreciation. They might marvel that in a Quarterly Meeting of forty or fifty brethren not a single cantankerous specimen can be found, and thank God with fervent hallelujahs that notwithstanding this the work of the Lord prospers.

T. V. E.

### Darwen.

In order to raise money to carry on the Sunday school we decided to have a series of efforts. The married men by their concert raised £11 12s. 8d. Last Saturday the young ladies, by a tea and concert realised £17. The results are highly gratifying to all concerned.

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**BUNTER'S** Prevents Decay, Saves  
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for years."—Prof. W. Wilson, M.D.



# From Dark to Dawn; or From Death to Life.

By JOHN W. CHAPPELL.

(Author of 'A Subtle Enchantress,' 'In the Power of God: The History of a Religious Movement'.)

## CHAPTER THE SECOND.

On the terrace of the boat-house by the lake, impervious to the cold, exulting in the glories of setting sun and gathering shade, dreaming of love and happiness, answering the melody of the lapping waters at her feet, sat the daughter of the house of Areta. This was one of her favourite haunts, and for hours she would sit in her easy chair, alone with her dreams. She had remained rather longer than was her wont on this chill December day, for her father, contrary to his custom on the last day of the week, was not to return from the garrison-city until the evening. At his military headquarters he had been much detained of late, though Felicita knew not the reason why. Hearing the sound of approaching footsteps she turned with some astonishment.

'Did I leave the gate unlocked? How dare anyone approach unbidden!' she was remarking to herself. But the stranger moved forward, his eyes fixed, not upon her—he did not see her—but upon the deep blue waters before him. It was a youth, pale, ascetic, with classic features: his head was upraised, his eyes were full and instinct with life, and his thin nervous fingers were extended as if in greeting. He was shabbily attired. But the mark of refinement was upon his profile. Her heart beat wildly. What could this mean? Suddenly it flashed upon her that he was preparing, with upraised hands, for a fatal plunge. He was now but a few yards from the water's edge. She was twice the distance from him. Quick as thought, and without a sound, she dashed forward and caught his upraised arm. He stopped suddenly, looked with stupid glare upon the vision before him, and then, the stupid glare changing to an expression of anguish, he fell broken at her feet. The tears chased their lines upon his soiled face, which was upraised beseechingly for a moment. Then his look hardened in protest.

'Why did you touch me, Signorina? I might even now have been at rest. My long dead mother beckoned me, she was calling, calling, and now she has gone. Again it is night to me. You think you have saved me, but my life was not worth the saving. Why will you not let me die?'

This appeal was strange to her. She had known no sorrow. When her mother died she was too young to know what she had lost. She was ignorant of the sorrows of the poor. That one could really wish to die was a new thing in her experience. Death was never courted, she thought, only feared. She was half-affrighted.

'Why can you wish to die?' she asked, a strange feeling having touched her heart. 'Is not life a joy to you? Will you tell me what has grieved you? Can I help you?' she timidly enquired.

'Pardon me, Signorina! My story could not interest you. It is but the despair of the toiler who is the victim of his own ideals. The tragedy of one who would, but may not, I could never consent to disturb your peace,' and he sought to move away.

But with a penetrating look and quiet voice, speaking she knew not what, she said:—

'Signore, it is the coward who despairs. It is ever the saint who achieves.' And the sentence stung his heart.

'Signorina, I am not a saint. But I trust I am no coward. I am merely one to whom no opportunity has come. I am a martyr to circumstance. I would die, because all my ideals lie shattered. Forgive me for breaking in upon your peace,' said he as, bowing low, he stepped aside.

But again she arrested him, and finally said, with great sympathy of expression: 'Go home and rest. You need quiet and comfort. To-morrow you will be yourself again.'

But she little knew how barren was her charge.

'Signorina,' said he, gravely, 'you mean to be kind, I am sure. But there! never mind me. To-morrow if you go to a shriven and aged tree, which stands within your father's grounds, immediately to the right of the footpath which leads from the highway to the hills, you will find secreted in its hollows some carvings of mine. I no longer need them. The tree stands at a point 30 yards from the path, and about the same distance from the northern wall. The carvings are hints of what I would accomplish. I love them every one—and hate them too. I love them because I have wrought them in poverty and pain through love of art, but I hate them because they express too well the limitations of my untutored power. Take them, if you will, and keep them, if you desire, in memory of the one whom for a brief moment you have saved.'

And he was gone!

Felicita stood still where Giovanni had left her, her brain awhirl, bewildered. She could not think.

'Where am I?' she seemed to be asking of herself. 'Is this a nightmare that has broken in upon my dream? Am I quite awake and conscious?' And she sank upon the ground.

In a few moments she recovered her nerve:

'I must go home,' she said. 'The evening is advancing. And I am so cold and tremulous. But what was that he said about the carvings wrought in pain for love of art? To-morrow shall I seek them? Nay, I cannot wait. I must go at once though night approaches to gather the treasures entrusted to me.'

And putting away her chair and the wraps which lay upon the ground she started upon her search.

Signorina Areta, a lady of graceful form and handsome presence, was a person of considerable local interest. She was often seen upon the roads, walking or driving, but always with her father, a gentleman of fine soldierly bearing, representative of the national guards. It was as she had driven along the roads that Giovanni had seen and admired her beauty. And she, too, all unconsciously to herself, had been his model. He had carved her beautiful face, and the cameo lay with the saints and madonnas which had been his gods. They, however, were no longer his—he had yielded up his last support to life.

After a quiet and prolonged search Felicita found the tree, and with strange delight took the carvings, which, 'neath the clustering foliage, she could but dimly see. There were papers, too, with ornamental designs in delicate pencil art, upon one of which she found what appeared to be the signature of the artist. Gathering together her precious burden she hastened home. Passing through the illuminated hall she ascended the marble staircase—a superb stairway of delicate marble, with sides of Gothic tracery and heavy pinnacled ends supported on classic figures—to the Library where her father at this hour might be expected to be, until the summons should be given to dine. Her eyes alighted on the legend engraven at the head of the stair:

'Bienheureux ceux qui ont le cœur pur.'

Instantly a grave interrogation flashed across her mind.

Are the pure then always happy? And the unhappy the impure? The impure should be unhappy,' she reflected, 'but are the unhappy necessarily the impure?'

Ah! it was the eternal problem of woe which had touched her heart, the problem which the ages have sought to solve—old, yet ever new! In the abstract she had assented to the proposition of the legend, but now she was confronted with a fact—a concrete truth which she could not ignore, but was unable to translate.

'Was the poor man she had just pitied impure?' she asked herself. 'The youth impure, whose refined features and elegant manner, despite his appearance, seemed to suggest otherwise?'

The fact threw a doubt upon the legend.

'Name! His name! What is his name?' she queried. 'It is written here, I believe,' she was saying as she reached the library door.

She knocked, but there was no answer. She knocked again. All was still—and the silence stole in upon her heart. Pressing the papers she held in her right hand into a fold of her dress, she slowly pushed open the door. The room was fully lighted, and her father lay before her—white, yet stained with blood, and with a revolver by his side.

'Oh! my father,' she cried as, swooning, she fell at his feet. And for long she lay unconscious. As she recovered consciousness, to find herself alone, confronted with the awful tragedy, she screamed again, and pressing the electric bell rang with some insistence. Then rushing to the head of the stairs she met her father's valet.

'Oh! Tommaso, do come!' she cried, 'my father has shot himself!' and she wrung her hands in wild despair.

Tommaso took in the situation at a glance, and touching Felicita gently upon the arm, he led her away to her boudoir. Flashing on the electric light he softly said:—

'Rest here, Signora, until I come again.'

Then he called her maid and instructed her on no consideration to leave her mistress, or permit her to leave her room.

Returning to the library he gathered up all the articles which were strewn upon the floor, with the documents which lay about, and thrust all—cameos, statuettes, and papers—into his master's desk. The major was beyond all human aid, but, nevertheless, Tommaso secured the door, and immediately sought the attendance of the local physician. Motherless, now Felicita was fatherless too. But the blow had stunned her. She knew not what she said or did.

## CHAPTER THE THIRD.

THE terrible news of the suicide of Major Areta spread quickly throughout the town. And among those who were the first to hear it was Giovanni, who had walked to Stresa, and stood at the moment he overheard the news glaring into the fascinating blue which shimmered with the reflection of the lights that flashed along the shore. The report shocked his mind and broke the evil spell—the awful witchery of death. He forgot himself, and could only think of the signorina of the Villa.

'Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow,' he had chanted to himself until its melancholy had preyed upon his soul. But now the bitterness of another's sorrow touched his heart and possessed his mind. And in this effacement of his own misfortune he recovered strength. There was but one course now available to him, and that was to return to the Villa. Instinctively he retraced his steps and knew nothing of the length or the weariness of the way. It was not that he had ought to say, or do, but he must be near in silent sympathy. He lay hidden in the grounds, watching the passing to and fro of men—he lay until the dawn of day. Then taking from his pocket a piece of crumpled paper he wrote upon it a message of pitying tenderness, which but half expressed and perhaps half concealed his heart, to the one who had, in pity, interposed herself between him and death. Yet, truly, it was not so much her personal intervention as this later stroke of overmastering sorrow which had befallen her that had quite prevented the accomplishment of the plan for his own destruction. And amid the lingering shadows of the early morn he moved stealthily to the Villa-entrance to deposit, with what faith and love he had, this token of his pity.

It was the dawn of Sabbath, but to Felicita it brought no peace. The night had been passed in a strange restlessness. And still she seemed as one who, walking in her sleep, bore no relation to her immediate environment. She uttered no word concerning her father or the tragedy which had overtaken him. She would not lie, nor could she weep. And even with the dawn of morning no change had come to her. But as the day wore on the maid, who had sought in vain to arrest the attention of her mistress, at length, in her perplexity, handed to her a letter which had been found in the hall in the early morning. Felicita took the letter and toyed with it for some time, when something upon which her eyes had fallen, seemed to awake her to consciousness. She sank into a chair with a sigh, gazing intently upon it. The maid watched her curiously. She tore the letter open and eagerly read its message. The words were simple, written with the same elegance of style as that which she had but dimly described in an earlier note:

'A Linden-Shrine,

'At dawn of Sabbath.

'Signorina,

'Your sorrow has brought me back to life.

It has restored my intellect, it has unsealed the fountain of my soul. Yesterday you pitied me in my abject weakness, and now I weep with you in the great and tragic loss which has befallen you. My tears bring back my childhood. I hear again my mother's feeble prayer: 'Be good, my boy, and noble! You will be left alone, alone in a heartless world; yet trust in God. He saves and keeps!' Those words I had forgotten until your sorrow brought them back. . . . You are good and noble: you may surely trust. Now my tears flow easily. And that flow relieves my surcharged heart! Forgive the liberty which is born of gratitude, and forget the sorrow which is lost in sympathy, is the prayer of one who can have been to you but an evil shadow.

'Giovanni.'

(To be continued.)

## MANCHESTER COLLEGE.

### Students' Missionary Anniversary.

SIR.—Will you allow me, at the request of the students' missionary committee to call attention to the arrangements made for the forthcoming missionary anniversary in connection with our Manchester College? It has long been a desire of the students to make this annual event of greater importance, and they have decided next year to 'launch out.' The meetings will extend over two days. On March 7th the Rev. Hugh Black will preach in the afternoon, and a platform meeting will be held at night, when Mr. Black, our Missionary President of Conference, and the Rev. A. T. Guttery will speak. Mr. J. Bell will be in the chair. These meetings are to take place in the Central Hall. On the following day a tea will be held at Moss Lane, and in the evening Councillor Windsor will preside at a meeting to be addressed by Professor Peake and two students. We are hoping that this preliminary notice will induce our friends to reserve these dates and assist us by their presence.

May I also venture to commend to the consideration of old students the appeal which will be made to them shortly by circular? An old student has suggested that the 'old men' will gladly contribute half a crown each annually for the missionary anniversary, not only that the income may be considerably enlarged, but as an indication of their esteem for the College and their pleasure to maintain some link of connection with it. I am confident that this appeal will meet with a hearty response.

Manchester.

Yours, etc. W. L. WARDLE

**BARROW IN FURNESS.****Bad Trade, but over  
£560 raised.**

THE Hartington Street Primitive Methodist Church held a three days' bazaar in the Town Hall, Barrow, November 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 1905.

The object of the bazaar was to raise £500 to reduce the debt existing on the Hartington Street Church. The Sunday school connected with the church is a large one, having nearly 500 scholars, and more than one-half of them are over fourteen years of age.

The Sunday school is unable to develop as it ought owing to the lack of accommodation, in fact, some of the scholars cannot attend owing to the want of room.

The church possesses an excellent site adjoining the present building, but owing to the heavy debt of £1,100 existing on the present premises, cannot think of moving in the direction of a new church until a substantial reduction is made on the existing debt.

The Town Hall was beautifully transformed for the occasion, and was made to represent an 'Old English Fair.' Messrs. T. Hodgson and J. Edwards arranged and made the stalls, etc., and all the decorations, etc., were done by our own people, and the splendid display reflected great credit upon their work.

The stalls were made to represent old-time English houses, and no pains had been spared to make the bazaar look as quaint and old-fashioned as possible.

Sir Charles Cayzer, Bart., M.P., presided at the opening ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 23rd. A passage of Scripture was read by the Rev. W. Hay, M.A., B.D. (Presbyterian), after which the Rev. J. Taylor (U.M.F.C.) offered prayer.

The Rev. J. W. Lisle, in making the statement and object of the bazaar, made the pleasing announcement that the General Chapel Fund had promised £50 if the church would raise £450.

Sir Charles Cayzer expressed his pleasure at being present, and said that he was heartily in sympathy with Sunday school work.

Lady Cayzer in declaring the bazaar open said that the hall presented quite a unique appearance. She had never seen anything prettier and more picturesque than the bazaar.

Mr. A. Wheeler moved a vote of thanks to Sir Chas. and Lady Cayzer, which was seconded by Mr. T. Hodgson, and carried unanimously.

The bazaar was opened on Friday, November 24th, by the Mayoress of Barrow, the Mayor (Coun. G. S. Heath) presiding. The Rev. J. Giffen (Cong.) offered prayer, after which the Rev. B. B. Farlow gave a statement showing the object of the bazaar. The Mayor expressed his pleasure at being present. The Mayoress then declared the bazaar open. A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress was moved by the Rev. J. W. Lisle, and seconded by Mr. A. Wheeler.

The bazaar was opened on Saturday, Nov. 25th, by Mrs. Aslett, of Ulverstone, Mr. J. A. Forster, of Crosslands Park, presiding. Prayer was offered by the Rev. M. Bartram (ex-president of M.N.C.). Mrs. Aslett then declared the bazaar open, after which a vote of thanks to Mrs. Aslett and J. A. Forster, Esq., was moved by the Rev. W. Walker (Baptist), and seconded by the Rev. B. B. Farlow.

The effort reflected great credit upon all concerned.

A word of praise is due to the secretary of the bazaar (Mr. A. M. Wheeler), who has worked with untiring zeal.

Credit is also due to Messrs. Hodgson and Edwards, who have worked in a very creditable manner for the erection of the stalls and general decoration of the bazaar.

Trade is very bad in the town at present, and our church is seriously affected by it, as it is entirely composed of working men. Yet the friends rallied together each of the days in a splendid manner, and with money that we had in hand and the £50 promised from the Chapel Aid Society, we were able at the close of the bazaar to announce that the magnificent sum of £560 had been raised.

**Debt Deduction at Bingley.****Grand Bazaar.**

A Bazaar was recently held in the schoolroom, Bingley. The effort was for the reduction of debt on the trust estate. The opening ceremonies were largely attended.

On Wednesday Mrs. J. H. Duncan opened the Bazaar, Councillor J. Barron presided and gave £5.

On Thursday R. Fletcher, Esq., C.C., was the opener and gave a donation £3 3s. Mr. J. Ward presided. Donation £2.

Friday, Mrs. A. R. Wright opened and gave £10. Mrs. T. C. Peters was president. Donation £1.

On Saturday B. Foulds, Esq., C.C., opened the Bazaar and contributed £10. Councillor W. Parker presided.

The total proceeds, including several donations received by the Rev. A. Jones (circuit minister). £251 12s. 9d.

This grand result is the fruit of unstinting toil and generous service on the part of all the church and friends.

**Bazaar at Accrington.**

A Bazaar for debt reduction at Whalley Road was held November 29th, 30th, and December 2nd and 4th. Openers, James Hacking, Esq., Mrs. Bunting and Councillor E. J. Lord, circuit steward. Chairmen, Mr. William Charnack, and the Revs. J. Wright and L. P. Jackson, Financial result, £155. Church debt cleared, except £100, on which no interest is payable. Over £2,000 paid off trust debt in a little over 11 years.

**Scarborough Second.****Bazaar at Jubilee.**

We have just closed a very successful bazaar. On Wednesday, December the 6th, Mrs. W. N. Coates, in a few choice words opened the bazaar. Mrs. M. H. Fell ably presided, recalling some of her earlier reminiscences with the church.

On Thursday, December 7th, the bazaar was opened by Mrs. Parnell, who praised the workers for their industry. Miss Martin presided and gave an interesting address.

On Friday, December 8th, the Sunday school children opened the sale. Miss Warwick told us how she had been from childhood trained in the school. Miss Moore made an excellent president. The effort has been a means of grace. The workers had not more than six weeks to prepare for the sale. The stalls were crowded with every conceivable article. We have realized in this annual effort about £160. The debt at Jubilee is still a serious item, but with a hard working church and a large congregation, the debt should not in any way cripple us.

We are hoping in the near future to lower our liabilities considerably. The quarterly meeting of the circuit was held last Friday, every department being found to be in a prosperous condition. The Rev. J. Foster was unanimously invited as the superintendent for 1907-8. The Rev. S. Bates was invited to remain as second minister for his fifth year, but declined. The Rev. J. W. Tristram, of Bacup, has promised to succeed Mr. Bates.

**Bazaar at Witney.****Proposed New Organ.**

For some time the ladies have been preparing for a bazaar to raise money towards an organ and better accommodation for the school. The bazaar was held on December 5th, in the Wesleyan schoolroom. The stalls were provided and erected by Messrs. Long and Borry. Each was decorated, the whole presenting a very pretty appearance. The stalls were in charge of the following:—Church stall No 1, presided over by Mrs. C. Viner, Mrs. J. S. Dingle, Mrs. J. Fenmore, and Mrs. E. Haley; Church stall No. 2, presided over by Mrs. E. Baker, Mrs. J. B. Hammond, and Mrs. Healey; Choir stall, presided over by Mrs. C. A. Viner, Miss E. Hosier, Miss Dyer, and Miss Moore; Flower stall, presided over by Miss Spencer, Miss D. Long, Miss V. Long, Mrs. Hickman and Miss Morris; Gentlemen's stall, presided over by Mr. W. Florey, Mr. E. Lloyd Viner, Mr. West, and Mr. South. There was also a refreshment and confectionery stall, presided over by Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Embling, Mrs. H. Viner, Mrs. House, Mrs. Hosier, Mrs. Pippett, Mrs. J. Martin and Mrs. H. Clack.

The Rev. S. Ainsworth presided. The bazaar was opened by E. M. Bennett, Esq., M.A. (Liberal candidate for the division), who gave an excellent address. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. C. Viner, and seconded by Rev. E. Haley.

During the afternoon and evening three concerts were given, an excellent programme having been arranged by Mr. C. A. Viner. Over £60 has been raised by this effort.

**Bazaar at Henniker Road,  
Stratford.**

A very successful Bazaar was held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday last.

The sale was opened on Wednesday by Mr. F. J. Hitchman, of Walthamstow, and Councillor C. Mansfield presided. Alderman C. Harbott, J.P., Councillor C. Gravenor, Rev. James Belsher, and Mr. W. A. Hawkey supported. The minister (Rev. J. Hawkey) stated that the objects of the Bazaar were to clear off the balance of the renovation of the church and reduction of debt. Mr. Hitchman and Councillor Mansfield spoke of their past connection with Primitive Methodism and their sympathy with the work.

The opening ceremony was performed on Thursday by Mrs. G. Saunders Jacobs, B.A. Councillor G. Saunders Jacobs was to have presided, but was unable to be present. In his absence the chair was taken by the Rev. J. Hawkey, supported by Councillor G. J. Hosking.

Mrs. Fred Harding, of Leytonstone, opened the Bazaar on Friday evening and Mr. Fred Harding presided. Councillor Gravenor was also present. The proceeds realized about £50.

**Miss Mabel Richardson at  
Ellesmere Port.**

This brilliant and talented young lady, who is a member of a well-known family connected with George Street Church, Chester, visited Ellesmere Port on Wednesday week, and gave a very fine recital. There was a large company present in the Central Hall, and the programme, which was crowded with good things, was immensely enjoyed. Every item was splendidly given and rapturously received by the entire audience. Miss Richardson undoubtedly possesses great dramatic power, while all her selections are given with very fine womanly delicacy and insight. The principal vocalist was Miss Dora Stockton, cousin to Miss Richardson. Her magnificent contralto voice was heard to great advantage in 'The Lost Chord' and 'Carmen Cita.' The services of both ladies were gratefully given in aid of the bazaar fund. Rev. W. Spedding presided, and expressed the thanks of the trustees to the artistes. Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., having generously offered ten per cent. on all raised towards debt reduction, the trustees and friends have already promised £250 amongst them, which sum they are seeking to make into at least £500 by March next.

**IN MEMORIAM.****Mr. Abraham Charlesworth.**

THE Morecambe Circuit, and more particularly the Parliament Street church, has sustained a heavy loss by the sudden death of Mr. A. Charlesworth, which occurred at his residence on November 4th.

Mr. Charlesworth was born 57 years ago near Huddersfield. When quiet a boy he worked in a coal mine. In his early manhood he removed to Ossett and attended the services at our church, where he surrendered himself to Christ under the preaching of Mr. H. Westwood. Having had few opportunities for intellectual culture, he was placed at a great disadvantage. But his persevering spirit soon equipped him for the position of local preacher, and he quickly became a most acceptable expounder of the Word. He cultivated an heroic passion for souls. He served the church well in several capacities, having been circuit steward, class leader, and superintendent of the school. On leaving Ossett for Morecambe he was presented with an illuminated address in recognition of his valuable services. His settlement in this station after a successful business career was a splendid acquisition. All his leisure time was spent in working assiduously in every department of the church life.

He was interred in the Wesleyan burial ground, Ossett, on November the 8th. Before the cortege left Morecambe a service was held in Parliament Street church at 8.30 a.m., conducted by the Rev. R. Huddleston. A large crowd of friends and sympathisers awaited the arrival of the remains at Ossett. A service was held in the Wesleyan church. The Rev. F. J. Hadfield officiated, the Revs. W. Bennion and J. Booth taking part. Mr. H. Westwood gave an appropriate address.

A very impressive memorial service was conducted by the Rev. R. Huddleston in Parliament Street church on Sunday evening, November 26th. The church was filled.

He leaves a widow, to whom he was greatly devoted, to mourn his loss.

**Mr. James Dale.**

THE Society at Station Road, Winsford, has just lost one of its most sincere workers in the passing away of James Dale. Born at Middlewich in 1839, our brother was reared amongst surroundings which were not helpful. As a young man he went to sea, and while on board gave his heart to God.

He became a thorough-going Christian, sincerity being one of his chief characteristics. As local preacher for many years and Sunday school worker, our brother laboured with untiring zeal. For some months before he fell on sleep he was afflicted, but was perfectly resigned, and quietly passed away on November 20th.

The memorial service was held on Sunday, December 10th, when our Station Road church was crowded with friends who desired to show their sympathy. The Rev. F. W. Henshall was the preacher, his topic, 'Christ's Death, our Life.'

**Mrs. Ruth Evans.**

By the death of Mrs. Evans, Rydal House, Coed Poeth, Wrexham, our church has sustained a great loss. Mrs. Evans was a faithful member and official of the church for 50 years. She was a woman of noble mind and integrity, and brought up her family in a most commendable manner. Two of her sons, the Rev. F. T. Evans, Torquay, and Rev. S. Evans, Ashbourne, are ministers of the church she loved so well, while another son, Mr. E. Birket Evans, is Mayor of Wrexham. On Sunday last a memorial service was conducted at Coed Poeth by an old friend of fifty years, Mr. S. Jeffery, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham, with many other relatives, being present.

Before any business was proceeded with at the ensuing meeting of the Wrexham Town Council, Councillor Sauvage rose, and; the other members of the Council also standing, said it was his painful duty to move that they tender their sincere condolence to the Mayor in the loss which he had sustained by the death of his esteemed mother. He had known Mrs. Ruth Evans very well, and had frequent opportunities of coming into contact with her, and knew that she was a woman who in every way did her duty in life faithfully. She was a most prominent member of the Church to which she belonged, and he believed had held every office in the denomination to the satisfaction of all with whom she came in contact; and the position which the Mayor held in that municipality and which his brothers held in the ministry was a good token that their mother carried out her duty faithfully to her family.

Alderman Thomas Jones seconded the motion. He had not, he said, the pleasure of knowing the late Mrs. Evans, but he knew something about her sons, and he felt sure she was a worthy woman.

The motion was carried in silence.

**Mr. Charles Mann.**

THE Bromsgrove Circuit has sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. Charles Mann, of Bluntington, at the age of 74 years. He was a consistent member, class leader, and local preacher for more than 50 years.

His house was a home to both ministers and local preachers, and many who have travelled on the Bromsgrove Circuit will remember our departed brother for his kindness and liberality.

He was interred in the new burial ground adjoining the Bluntington Chapel on Wednesday, October 4th, 1905, the funeral service being conducted by the Rev. A. Parker. The service was very impressive. Many of the brethren of the circuit attended, among whom were Bros. S. Banner, G. Hughes, W. Martin (sen.), E. Rutter, W. J. Leadbetter, J. Moram, W. Pinfield, J. H. Rea, A. Waldron, G. Banner, and others.

A memorial service was held on Sunday evening, October 15th, at the Bluntington Chapel, and Mr. George Hughes preached an impressive sermon to a large congregation.

The deceased leaves a widow, five sons, and a daughter to mourn their loss.

**Jarrow-on-Tyne.**

The ladies of the church at New Washington inaugurated a scheme for the purchase of a pipe organ and the enlargement of the chapel. Their first effort was held on Nov. 29th. The Sale of Work was opened by Mrs. Sallows, of Gateshead, the president being Mr. F. Jones, of Birtley, a former official of the church. The result was most encouraging, a sum of £90 being realised by the sale.

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## The Primitive Methodist Leader.

INCORPORATING 'THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST'

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1905.

## JOHN WILHELM ROWNTREE.

By Prof. A. S. Peake, M.A., B.D.

I HAVE received from Messrs. Headley Brothers a volume containing Essays and Addresses by John Wilhelm Rowntree (price 5s. net.) It has been edited by Joshua Rowntree, who has contributed a very sympathetic introductory sketch. The book fills, roughly speaking, 500 pages, and is a precious record of a really great personality. He died when he was thirty-six, and he had for long been afflicted with deafness. Added to that he had suffered from a strange malady of the eyes, which was eating away the retina, and as he once told me had left him with one-fourth of the field of vision of a normal person. In spite of his short life and these physical limitations the work that he did for the Society of Friends was of a very far-reaching character. Probably it would be no exaggeration to say that he was the most elemental force at work in the Society in his life-time, and I am by no means sure that his early death will not have made an even deeper impression than he had made in his life.

I first met him at the Birmingham Summer School, where I was lecturing on the Pauline Theology. He was at the time no more than a name to me, so little do we know often of the truly great men of other communions. I remember a speech he made, urging the holding of a Summer School that should be in session for a longer period than just the fortnight that had been the measure of Summer Schools. This suggestion has borne fruit at Woodbrooke, which was made possible by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Cadbury, and in which John Wilhelm Rowntree took the very deepest interest. I barely spoke to him at the Birmingham Summer School, but I remember that I had been emphasizing rather strongly the great importance of a grave view of sin in contrast to the light-hearted way in which many regarded it now-a-days. He came up afterwards to thank me, saying that it was a very necessary warning. I never met him again at a Summer School. He urged me to lecture at the next one, but I did not see how it was possible to arrange it, nor could I accept another invitation to give a course of lectures at York. Looking back, I am almost tempted to regret that I did not manage to squeeze them in, as I should have been able to see a great deal more of him in this way. The pressure of

work was, however, so great that I shrank from adding any more. I have heard the difference between rheumatism and gout expressed in this way: rheumatism is twisting the thumb-screw as far as it will go, and gout is giving it two or three turns further. The pressure of work with me is always at rheumatism point; not infrequently, as at present, it is at gout point. I am rather sorry that I flinched from gout point in the cases I have mentioned. I went up one year, however, to the Scarborough Convention, and he claimed me as his guest. I was too tired and unwell to talk much at night, but we had a long morning together. He was greatly interested in Theology, and especially in the Doctrine of the Atonement, and this formed one of the main topics of our conversation. He had read a great deal of Theology, but read it always with a masculine independence of judgment, and insisted on confronting everything with the facts of life. He told me that he found no help in Dale's view, it did not appeal to him at all. His thought worked very much upon the problem; he applied the ethical test rigorously to all theories.

The last time I met him he returned to the subject. He had come to my house to ask for some help on a matter touching the Woodbrooke Settlement and in his statement of the case I had to admire, as I had often done, the statesman's grip of the situation. After that had been settled, he turned again to the subject of the Atonement. He had been reading an article of mine in 'The Expositor,' in which I had been expounding my view of the Pauline doctrine. He told me that he thought I was on the right lines if I would follow them up, though I think he felt that I was in danger of giving too much weight to more conventional views. One of his own leading convictions on the subject may be expressed in his own words, 'To me the Cross of Christ contains the revelation that *sin hurts God*.' He had definitely rejected the Unitarian position as to the person of Christ. He had done so after an almost complete break with religion. Here his own words may be quoted—'I have known what it was almost to give up belief in God; I have certainly known what it was not to believe in God in my heart, but only to believe in Him with my head. I have known what it is to believe that there is no reality in the Bible—certainly no reality in Jesus Christ. These things have come back again to me along unexpected paths, in ways which I had not discerned—but they have come back and they are clear to me. The Bible has come back to me, through difficulty, in modern theology. Jesus Christ has come back to me in ways that I cannot express in speech. This I do know—even that light from out of darkness comes at times—a heavenly light. I know what it means when the poet says, 'The heart has felt'; I know what it means to feel in my heart the active presence of the love of God that has come to me through Jesus Christ.' This passage is very significant. As we discover elsewhere, one of the main elements in his return to Christianity was his study of Biblical criticism, especially as presented by Robertson Smith, a most remarkable instance of the oft verified truth that a reverent criticism is a great aid to faith. As an important sentence, which puts the difference between his own and the Unitarian position, I may quote his words, 'As a supreme effort towards God, Jesus would indeed be great, but the dynamic of Jesus lies surely in His being an effort of God towards man.'

There is much in this book that has a special message for the Society of Friends. He faced boldly the weaknesses, as he conceived them, of present-day Quakerism. He believed with fervour in Quaker principles, and expounded them with singular enthusiasm and power, but he felt that there was a serious lack in the expression given to them by the Society, and probed the causes with a searching and relentless scrutiny. He was a ferment in the Society; his brain was seething with new ideas; in his spiritual life he had known a great and original experience. On the practical side he had a remarkable gift of initiative and executive ability; on the speculative side he had an unusual power of restating truth in unconventional language. He took a very grave view of the immediate future of England, the lowering of our ideals, the disappearance of the hunger for God. The degradation of our ethics deeply depressed him; he was an optimist as to the ultimate issue, but inclined to pessimism for our own time. He distrusted remedies that did not go to the root of the mischief; especially he dreaded a superficial revivalism, feeling how much need there was for more intelligence and more depth.

He rightly felt that the Society of Friends was entrusted with a great message, that an opportunity, al-

most unparalleled in its history, had come to it, if it would only realise it. Hence he threw himself passionately into all kinds of work for it. He fostered the Adult School movement; he worked hard for Summer Schools and for the Woodbrooke Settlement; he was deeply concerned for Sunday School Reform; he wrote and spoke, organised and agitated, and had the joy of seeing his labours bear great fruit. Of especial value was his work among the younger Friends who were drifting away from their hold on Christianity. He gave much time for meeting them in conference, visiting a large number of towns and holding drawing-room meetings on the Sunday night after service, where he could meet them in frank conference. He knew exactly what the difficulties were, he had felt them himself, had fought his way through them and out of them. He was a man of wide culture apart from Theology, a great personality, who could take most men on their strongest side. Hence he had a message that was not confined to the Society of Friends. One great value of this book for preachers lies here, that the author knew, as probably few know, what the young people of England were thinking, whether they belonged to the working or the professional classes. He knew just where the difficulties pressed, hence Theology was never for him the science of cloud-land, it was at every point kept closely in touch with life and actual experience. He would not take refuge in Coward's Castle. Even after he regained his faith he steadily faced difficulties, in the assurance that his own faith rested on an experience that could not be taken from him. He can teach us how to restate our Theology so as to bring it home to many who regard it at present as a venerable collection of beliefs that has little or nothing to do with the stern realities of every-day life.

## Current Events.

## Government Appointments Completed.

We were able last week to give a list of thirty-three ministerial appointments in the New Government, including the whole of the nineteen members of the Cabinet.

During the week the following have been offered and accepted office—

Junior Lords of Treasury	Mr. J. A. Pease. Mr. Herbert Lewis.
Under-Secretary for Foreign Office	Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (in the House of Lords).
Under-Secretary War Office	Earl of Portsmouth.
Financial Secretary War Office	Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
Civil Lord of Admiralty	Mr. George Lambert.
Secretary Board of Trade	Mr. H. E. Kearley.
Secretary Local Government Board	Mr. Walter Runciman.
Secretary Board of Education	Mr. Thomas Lough.
Solicitor-General for Scotland	Mr. Alexander Ure, K.C.
ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.	
Lord Chamberlain	Rt. Hon. C. R. Spencer (in the House of Lords).
Vice-Chamberlain	Mr. Wentworth Beaumont.
Lords-in-Waiting	Earl Granville.
	Earl of Granard.
	Lord Hamilton of Dalzell
	Lord Acton.
Lord Steward	Lord Denham.
	Lord Hawkesbury.
	Sir Edward Strachey.
	The Master of Elibank.
	Earl of Sefton.

In addition to these it is rumoured that Mr. Alfred Emmot, the senior member for Oldham will be made chairman of Committees. Of course Mr. J. W. Lowther, conservative member for the Penrith division of Cumberland, who succeeded Mr. Gully as Speaker, will, according to usage, be appointed to the Speakership again in the New Parliament. His seat would probably have been won for the Liberals by Mr. Tweddle, but on his receiving the appointment of Speaker the Liberal candidate retired from the contest. Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice is the gifted biographer of the late Earl Granville, and had intimated his intention of retiring from the House of Commons. As his Chief will be in the Commons he (Lord Edmond) will be made a peer.

## Public Opinion.

SELDOM has a new government taken office amidst such a general chorus of approval. From Liberals a warm welcome was to be expected, but in this instance the natural opponents of the government have been almost as loud in their praise as its supporters. Ex-ministers and Tory newspapers have vied with each other in extolling the excellencies of the able men who have been called to the council board of the King. It looks as though the sense of relief in being delivered out of the

hands of the bunglers who have vacated office was quite as great among Tories as among Liberals. The only exception of importance to this is in the case of Mr. Chamberlain's organ, 'The Outlook,' which appears to be extremely angry, and like all angry people, succeeds in doing damage to its own cause. Referring to the new ministers it says—'The exploiters of 'methods of barbarism,' of sectarian strife in education, of the dear loaf, of Chinese labour, have not increased their claims upon national confidence by accession to office.' Liberals could desire nothing better than to have the election fought on the four issues named in this article of the 'Outlook,' and it is a matter of astonishment to us that a supporter of Mr. Chamberlain at this time of the day should make any reference to South Africa. The Boer War cannot now be regarded as a feather in the cap of the member for West Birmingham, even by his most prejudiced friends; the 'methods of barbarism' are as much a proved fact as Chinese labour, and both rank amongst the shameful events in the history of our country for which we have to thank the late government; and few things will prevent the masses of the working people and the tradesmen of England from supporting the Tory party at the coming election so much as the prospect of dear food. As for the Education Acts, they are the most scandalous injustice inflicted on the country for the last fifty years.

### Debates and Debaters.

APART from the undoubted gifts of Statesmanship possessed by the new Ministers, and for the exercise of which, thanks to the state of chaos to which their predecessors have brought the country, both with regard to legislation, finance, and the public services, there is such a crying need, it is impossible not to be impressed with the debating power of a large number of the Members of the New Government. Confining our attention to the Members of the House of Commons alone, it will be admitted that the following stand in the very front rank as debaters:—Mr. Asquith; Sir Edward Grey; Mr. Lloyd George; Mr. John Burns; Mr. Bryce; Mr. Birrell; Mr. Herbert Samuel; Mr. Winston Churchill; Mr. W. S. Robson, and Mr. Thomas Shaw. There are others not far behind them in this respect, and, of course, some, like Mr. John Morley, who are equal to the best of them in Statesmanship, though they may not be able to claim such brilliant debating gifts. But this circumstance is worth attention because it constitutes one ground of hope that the House of Commons will have restored to it the dignity and functions of which it has been deprived by Mr. Balfour. It will make it, also, something approaching the centre of interest it was to the nation in the days of Gladstone and Bright. The chief drawback will be the lack of similar gifts on the other side of the House. Mr. Balfour hardly counts in this respect now. He has gained the reputation of being a dialectic juggler rather than a serious debater, and this of necessity will take somewhat from the value of his contributions. There remains Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Wyndham, Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. T. Gibson Bowles, and Sir John Gorst, rather a feeble folk to join issue with the men on the ministerial benches. Besides the last named two have strong Liberal sympathies, and will not always be against the New Government, especially on questions of finance and education.

### A Special Element in the Situation.

THE national crisis is peculiar in many respects, and one of its peculiarities is the relations of the Liberal Party to the working classes and to Labour Candidates. It was inevitable that the problems connected with labour would arise. Poor human nature is selfish, and when the masses had no political power they did not receive fair treatment from those who had. The wonder is not that these problems are obtruding themselves, but that they have been kept so long in the background. It is forty years since the artisans of the towns received the franchise, it is more than twenty since it was extended to all householders in both town and country, and yet the cry for social legislation is only now becoming acute. Probably the reason for the delay is to be found in the fact that, thanks to the financial genius of Mr. Gladstone and Sir Robert Peel, the material conditions of the working classes in Great Britain during the last sixty years have improved on the whole to a degree unparalleled in the history of work and wages. But there remain many evils to be remedied. There are immediately in front of us the problems of housing, of uncultivated lands, of labour combinations, and the like. And it is said that labour candidates at the General Election will number 85, eight or ten times as many as at any former General Election. Half of these are Liberal-labour, the others are Independent, though, of course, they will be Progressive, and will be found voting with the Liberal party nineteen times out of twenty. We could have wished that all of them had chosen to contest the seats of reactionary Tories rather than those of good Progressive Liberals, as is likely to happen in some cases. However, let the situation be accepted. What is desirable to point out is that the Liberal Party and the Government will be on their trial. What is accomplished during the life of the present Parliament

may determine, for all time to come, whether Labour and Liberalism will coalesce, or stand apart from each other, with suspicion in their minds, and work at cross purposes. We hope the former of these two results will happen. But it can happen only by the Government making large attempts to deal with the questions affecting the life of the working classes in a liberal and effective manner. For our part we should be sorry to think that the old Liberals of England will ever sink to the state of impotence to which the old Liberals of Germany have been reduced, and we cannot think that, with Governments constituted as is the present, this will ever take place. It becomes more needful, however, in view of this element in the situation, for the Government to have a large majority, as, otherwise, it will not have a fair chance of doing justice to itself in its efforts to solve labour problems.

### Government and Unemployed.

ON Wednesday of last week a deputation on behalf of the Unemployed of London waited on the new prime minister. After the interview the members of the deputation addressed a crowd in Hyde Park. The reports that appeared in the papers on the following day point to the conclusion that the deputation was fairly well pleased with its reception, and entertained some hope of the new government. Undoubtedly it was difficult for the Prime Minister to say much in the circumstances. He had barely become Prime Minister, his government appointments were not completed, and at present he has not a parliamentary majority. Besides, there had been no cabinet meeting, and consequently no programme of legislation had been drawn up. But he was able to refer to his Glasgow speech in which he had advocated the establishment of farm colonies and of other permanent works, such as afforestation, and radical changes in the Poor Law. He also had the inestimable advantage of being able to have Mr. John Burns by his side as the new President of the Local Government Board, in itself the best guarantee that in the matter of social legislation the new government means business. At the Hyde Park meeting the deputation spoke appreciatively of the reception they had received, and recognised the force of what had been pointed out by Mr. Burns, that until there was further legislation the Unemployed Act gave the government very little room for action. But they had the assurance that all would be done that could be done. It is undoubtedly time that a Radical change was made in the Poor Law. As it is worked at present it is specially hard on the working man who is on tramp and so reduced that he is forced to lodge in the casual ward. The food doled out is poor, the provision for cleanliness is inadequate, and often the demand for work the next morning is far in excess of value received. This work is a great drain on the strength, and often prevents a man from doing as well as otherwise he might in his effort to obtain employment. Meanwhile, it is gratifying to know that whilst there are many unemployed, the figures for November are the lowest they have been at this season of the year for some time. In November the Board of Trade returns showed there were 4.7 per cent., but in October they were five per cent., and in November 1904 they were 7 per cent. The building trade is the least satisfactory at present, but that cannot be from foreign competition, for as one of the evening papers has said, the foreigner does not dump ready-made houses in our streets.

### Chinese Labour.

EVERYTHING points to the conclusion that the state of things created in South Africa by the presence there of Chinese coolies must be ended with the least possible delay. The flogging of the coolies, although illegal, is very much in actual practice, and even Lord Selbourne, who is in favour of Chinese Labour in South Africa, and probably is not acquainted with the most objectionable aspects of the question, has made the following: 'I profoundly regret that corporal punishment, however slight, was authorised without the safeguards of the law, and that the matter was not brought to my notice as Secretary of State before it was authorised.' There are desertions, or were in September, at the average rate of twelve or thirteen per day, and almost as many were travelling without permit; whilst if to these are added the cases of more serious crime, such as assault, house-breaking, and the like, the average runs up to about thirty crimes per day for that month. One of the methods now employed to keep down misbehaviour is an outrage on our sense of justice. The Ordinance has been amended so that the coolies are divided into gangs, and one of them is compelled to act as a kind of head boy. He does not desire the position, but his desires are not consulted in the matter. He is responsible for the good behaviour of his section. If one of them is idle and fails to apply himself to his work, the headboy is fined £5 should he fail to report the case. Think of a fine of £5 on a man earning a shilling per day. It means his whole wages for four months. And yet Mr. Balfour goes out of his way to appeal to the new Government not to interfere with this coolie labour. What can be his motive? We are puzzled with this question.

### Russia.

COUNT WITTE has now fully justified the lack of faith manifested in him by Russian Liberals. He went very far in that direction when he proclaimed martial law in Poland. But, failing the appearance of another man of more liberal tendencies strong enough to take its place, those who were watching the progress of events were inclined still to hope. They can hardly hope any longer. The four hundred thousand heroes who fought the Tsar's battles in Manchuria are still there. They escaped the Japanese bullets and bombs, now they seem destined to die of starvation, because Count Witte fears that if they come home they will only increase the unrest. At home he has resorted these last few days to the old repressive measures. On Saturday 250 men, the whole Council of Workmen's Delegates, were arrested; nearly the whole of the press was suspended, the exceptions being mere government organs; editors were arrested, and perhaps worst of all, absolute powers, not only of other sorts of punishment, but of life and death, were put into the hands of all the Provincial Governments and their petty officials. The immediate cause of this has been the publication by the Council of Workmen's Delegates of a manifesto calling attention to the financial collapse of the empire, and complaining of the lack of employment, the high price of food, and the depleting of the public treasury for the protection of industries that cannot live. (Protectionists should note this.) One wonders at the madness of Count Witte in thinking that anything can be done now by repressive measures. The Baltic Provinces are in red revolution, and it is reported that Riga, the fifth city of the empire, is in flames. The navy cannot be used. The army is turning treacherous a regiment at a time. In some districts placards are out calling for the extermination of landowners and capitalists. 'Russ,' a leading Liberal paper, can discover no hope for the people save by revolution. It has been thought that Germany, despite all that has been said by Prince Bulow, will be compelled to interfere in Poland. It has been estimated that there are in Russia 200,000 Germans who are Russian subjects, and 150,000 who are still German subjects, whilst German investments in Russia are said to amount to £200,000,000. And still the great need is a man to lead the people.

### A Correction and an Apology.

THROUGH a mistake in the reading of a telegraphic communication an error was made in the first sentence of the note entitled 'Party Spoils' in 'Current Events' in last week's issue of this journal. We regret this error and take the earliest opportunity of withdrawing the whole sentence absolutely, and offering a full apology for the inaccurate statement.

### A Welcome Friend.

'Grace Abounding.' By John Bunyan. With coloured illustrations by Harold Copping. The Religious Tract Society.

WE have found that many people are more familiar with the title than with the contents of this book, and we would urge such to afford themselves a treat, at a small cost, by reading it. We make no apology for its being an old work, for that may be a recommendation. It contains the record of Bunyan's inner experience, his soul-travail and deliverance, and, as such, it will have a permanent place in the world's religious literature. Bunyan had lived a most desperate life, and his struggle from darkness to light, from bondage to liberty, was both long and bitter. Assailed by temptation, and doubt, and fear, opposed and suspected by respectable and religious people, he was more than once on the point of despair; but despite all such hindrances and conflicts, he ultimately found assurance and peace. He is a striking example of the fact that, even at their worst God does not leave men to themselves and their sins, but is ever seeking to win them to a better life.

With Bunyan's experience before him no man need despair of himself, for God does not despair of him, and neither should the church. Bunyan is a convincing evidence of that Grace of God which abounds to all, even the worst. Then, think of what he became! By the Grace of God, and by devotion to him, what a saint and hero he became! This, of course, relates to the second part of his life, after he became a minister of the Gospel. In that capacity he had the greatest opposition to meet, and we are given an insight into his imprisonment. Yet, sustained by the Grace of God, he ultimately triumphed, and but for that imprisonment we should not have had this and other productions of his pen.

The story is most thrilling, and should be inspiring to all Free Churchmen to-day, many of whom are so bravely suffering for the sake of religious liberty as Bunyan then did. They need not despair, for the same God is over them, and they too shall triumph. But to those who are already familiar with the contents of this work we wish to say that the present edition is not a mere re-print. It is a great deal more than that, and the Religious Tract Society is to be congratulated on issuing so excellent edition of such an excellent work. Its general appearance and get-up is most pleasing. The type is bold and clear, and there are several new and attractive features. It is based on the eighth edition, which was corrected by Bunyan himself shortly before his death. The introduction of a 'marginal summary' is a new feature and makes the present work correspond with the Society's editions of the 'Pilgrim's Progress.' There are also coloured illustrations by Harold Copping, whose former work in that direction has attracted so much attention. We trust that the 'Abounding Grace' in its new form will have the sale which it undoubtedly deserves.—B. HADDON.

## The Home Circle.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

#### Christmas.

'THERE was no room for them in the inn.' Is not this, His first experience, the experience of all the Saviour's life both in His flesh and in His church—that, crowded out of the hospitalities of life, out of the inns and homes and cheerful haunts of man, He has found His resting-place in the world's sheds and mangers, among the poverty and degradation of our race? It is just the form of opposition to the cause of Christ that is adopted to-day. The Gospel is not fought against, or frankly met by the world of our day. It is simply crowded out. Our irreligious life is more and more assuming the form of a great inert overfulness. —Phillips Brooks.

#### Kingsley's Christmas Message.

*It chanced upon a merry, merry Christmas eve  
I went sighing past the church across the moorland dreary—  
'Oh! never sin and want and woe this earth will leave;  
And the bells but mock the wailing round, they sing so cheery.  
How long, O Lord, how long before Thou come again?  
Still in cellar, and in garret, and on moorland dreary.  
The orphans moan, and widows weep, and poor men toil in vain,  
Till the earth is sick of hope deferred, tho' the Christmas bells  
be cheery.'*

*Then arose a joyous clamour from the wild fowl on the mere,  
Beneath the stars, across the snow, like clear bells ringing;  
And a voice within cried, 'Listen! Christmas carols even here!  
Though thou be dumb, yet o'er their work the stars and snows  
are singing.*

*Blind! I live, I love, I reign; and all the nations through  
With the thunder of my judgments even now are ringing;  
Do thou fulfil thy work, but as you wild fowl do,  
Thou wilt heed no less the wailing, yet hear, through it, angels  
singing.'*

#### PRAYER.

O CHRIST! we have seen Thy star in the East, and we come to worship Thee. 'Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given!' We hail Thee as the Wonderful, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace! We bring Thee the gold of our love, the frankincense of our service, the myrrh of our soul's intercession. At Thy manger we bow in lowly adoration, that we may enter more into the eternal mystery of Thy love.

O that the child Jesus may to-day be born in our hearts! If Thou, the lowly, yet kingly, Christ shalt dwell in us, henceforth life shall express the note of the angels, 'Glory to God in the highest,' and out of us shall flow peace to men.

To-day our hearts go out in goodwill to all men. We would give our love to the world. Freely we have received, freely would we give. We thank Thee that our Christmastide is all the happier because we have shared our joy with our brothers and sisters of sorrow. We thank Thee for home, for its joys and discipline, for its love and its pain. As our dear ones come to their old home, and once again complete the family circle, may the Christmas Christ be also present, and share our joys and fellowships. Prepare us for that great home-coming, when Thou, whom to-day we worship as the Child, shalt be All in All.

## FORWARD MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

### Progress 'at' Wishaw.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM has had an existence in Wishaw for forty years, but up to a few years ago was a negligible quantity. A revolution has, however, taken place, and to-day the church is strong, vigorous, and highly respected, taking her place side by side with all the other churches of the town. Her minister has had a seat upon the Parish Council for the last ten years, and three times over has been returned to a position on the School Board.

A small church in a back street, valued at £600, with a debt of £200, has been replaced by a commodious edifice

in the Main Thoroughfare, worth £2,000, which in a few weeks will be absolutely debtless. A membership of forty-four has gone up to two hundred, and a congregation of forty to fifty has grown to approaching three hundred. An average quarterly income of £8 now stands at £33, whilst the number of Sabbath School scholars has increased from ninety-nine to four hundred. From a school and congregation in which six young persons between the ages of fifteen and twenty could not be found, now there is a Minister's Bible Class of young men and women with a roll of over fifty. Primitive Methodism has the honour of possessing the largest Sabbath School in the town, and continues to grow in strength and favour.

For the past month there have been as many as 30 present at a class meeting, while the week-night preaching service ranges from 40 to 50. £700 of a debt has been reduced to £120, and recently promises came in from the members which more than covered this amount. A mission hall has been erected at a cost of £300, and a fine school at another place in the circuit at a cost of £650. A commanding site, measuring nearly half an acre, has just been secured in a populous and rising neighbourhood, and an iron church will soon be erected. Upon this solid foundation it was thought the time had come to

#### Adopt the Forward Movement.

and recently the first service took place. Full preparations had been made on the most modern Forward Movement lines—all seats were declared free, a choir and orchestra of nearly 50 strong was secured, printed hymn sheets were distributed at the door, and the town thoroughly billed, with the result that the church, which seats 500, was filled to the door. A rich spiritual influence characterised the service, and the Divine approval was given by the conversion of a young lady of much promise. Such success was all the more gratifying as being in Scotland where, as everyone knows, we have an uphill battle to fight. Happily no circuit possesses a more intelligent and devoted staff of office bearers. It is fully anticipated that larger conquests will be achieved in the future.

## The Children's Own.

In a few days bright, jolly, laughing Christmas will be here. I wish it would come oftener, or stay all the year round, don't you? Let us catch Father Christmas this year, and tie his hands and feet, and keep him. Or, if we can't keep him, let us try and be generous and forgiving till he comes back.

Very many thanks for all the letters I am receiving. I like to hear about your birthdays, and brothers and sisters, and schools, and how much your fathers like the *Leader*. I wish I could send you all a letter back again, but as I cannot, please accept my very sincere wish that every reader may have as happy a Christmas as if all previous were rolled into one.

#### Who Won the Prizes?

I set missing word papers for the seven who got the 'Rain-drop' story right. None were quite correct, for it was rather difficult, but Missie Dodds did the best, and received a nice book.

Ethel Sutherby, Hornsea, has led the way this week in getting in new subscribers for the *Leader*, having obtained 12. I have sent her the 3s. 6d. book I offered. Harold Bailey, Hessele, came next, with nine names. He also has received a book. Next week I will give

#### 'The Brigand's Prey.'

a splendid story of adventure for the most names of persons who have promised you to buy the *Leader* for three months. Give the names to a newsagent who keeps a paper shop, and send a copy to me. A prize for all who get six or more. Ask father or mother to sign your list.

#### That Sum.

Well done all who have tried to solve the 'Sum' problem. Everybody thinks the boy should tell the master if the sum has been marked right when it was wrong. Jeannie Kelly (aged 13), Pelaw-on-Tyne, sent the fullest and best answer, and has received the prize. She cleverly describes the boy's temptation to say nothing about it, and points out how his character would be stained if he did not, and how, if it was discovered, he would lose the respect of the school. She says, too, the Great Teacher would be pleased if the boy did right. J. H. Watkins (12), Birmingham, was the next best. The following were very good, Harold Orlesby, Mary Harris, Annie Hayton, Harry Rudeforth, B. B. Grosvenor, W. Young, A. Hinton, J. T. Huddleston, E. Hatch, W. M. Roskelly, A. Keedy, J. Gardiner, I. Smith, W. Smith, L. Dobbs. Annie Hayton says her brother last week did take his sum back to the master to have it corrected.

#### This Week's Competition.

The Missing Word competition was so popular we must have another. Send to me by next Thursday morning. A prize will be given as usual.

'I've — a boy for you —.' 'Glad of it: — is —?' asked the master-workman of a large —.' The man — the boy's — and where —.' 'Don't — him,' said the —: 'he has — a bad —.' 'A bad —, sir! What?' 'I meet him every day with — in —. I don't want —.'

#### The Latest Story to tell Grandpa.

At a recent visit of His Majesty's Inspector to an Essex school the children were saving a piece of poetry called 'The Wind in a Frolic.' In this piece occurs the line: *So on it went capering and playing its pranks.* The inspector stopped the class here, and asked them to tell him the meaning of capering, and also the name of any animal that cuts capers. The answers given by several boys were—a kitten, a pup, a goat, a lamb, etc. However, a very happy thought struck one small boy, who put up his hand and said: *A motor car!*

#### THE BEST BABY IN THE WORLD.

ONCE upon a time a baby boy came straight from heaven to earth. People had often been told He was coming, but some did not believe it, and others did not know the very day He would come, so nobody had got a warm room and a little soft bed ready for him, and he had to go to a stable, where there were camels and donkeys. However, he did not suffer much, for His mother held him very close to her and kept Him warm. When she was tired of nursing she laid Him in the manger, out of which the cattle ate their food. There was an inn close by where travellers stopped to eat and sleep, but it was so full of people the little Boy and His mother could not get in. He was crowded out. There was room for big people and rich people, but not for the sweet little Baby who had come all the way from heaven to make the world happy. But He didn't mind much, for you see He didn't know a great deal about it, and then He had His mother to look after Him.

The Baby grew into a big Boy, and the boy became a good man. Some people loved Him and some hated Him, and the bad people killed Him, so He went back to heaven. But He can't stay there altogether, and is always coming to earth again. Not like He did a long time ago, in the form of a baby. When He comes now He cannot be seen or touched, but people know He is about. He doesn't try to get into inns either, but into hearts.

Not long ago a boy heard a knock at the door of his heart. 'Who's there?' he asked. 'It is I, the one who was born in a stable,' said the Voice. 'What do you want?' inquired the boy. And He who was knocking said, 'I want to come and live in your heart and make it pure and happy.' But He didn't get in. There wasn't room for Him. He was crowded out again. For in that boy's heart there was Master Selfishness and his dog Snap Bad-temper, Master Falsehood and his cousin Dishonesty, Master Evil-thought and his brother Evil-deed, and other bad company, so the One without went away.

Another day, it was Christmas, a little girl heard a gentle voice saying, 'May I come in? May I come in?' 'Who are you?' 'I am the One who was crowded out of the inn.' 'I have been crowded out of many hearts too. People have room for friends and parties and school and work, but no room for Me. They seem afraid of Me, and yet I am a true Friend. Do let me in!' And this little girl opened the door of her life, which was her heart, and He went in and stayed there for many years. When the girl was a woman she used to tell how on Xmas Day, long, long ago, a Great Friend, who could find room nowhere else, came into her heart, and made her glad.

The Baby of whom I have been speaking celebrates His 1905th birthday next Monday, so He is a Baby no longer. He is the Saviour and King of all the world. Have you room for Him in your heart? Don't crowd Him out.

All letters to be sent to Rev. H. O. H. Richardson, 10 Granville Terrace, Darlington.

## Woman's Work.

To all the readers of *Women's Work* I wish a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. This is the first Christmas the *Leader* has seen, and I take this opportunity of informing my readers that though only six months have elapsed since it was first started, it has already more than justified the most sanguine expectations of its promoters; it has come to stay, and is now firmly established, every week increasing its circulation. To all my readers who have helped to bring about this success I tender my warmest thanks and can assure them that the present high standard of the paper will be maintained. I would also urge my readers not to be backward in sending questions. If they do not agree with the views expressed week by week, why not send me word? This might lead to interesting discussions in the column. I need hardly repeat that I will do my best to answer questions relating to household and domestic matters.

\* \* \*

WHILST Christmas, with its family re-unions, its gaieties and its all-pervading atmosphere of peace and goodwill, is a season of rejoicing for all, it is yet more particularly the children's festival. By them it is long looked forward to, and talked about, and to them it brings unalloyed pleasure. Who does not remember the excitement of watching for Santa Claus? and then the Christmas presents and the parties! Truly

'Christmas comes but once a year,

And when it comes it brings good cheer.'

Speaking of children's parties reminds me that I heard some ladies discussing them lately. All were agreed that the tendency nowadays is to over-do them, to spend too much money on them, and cause them to resemble those provided for grown-ups! To those of my readers who are giving a children's party I would say two things: First, have it in your own house if possible. Hired rooms may be larger and save you some trouble, but they are generally cold and comfortless, and the children infinitely prefer to explore several rooms—or even the whole house—rather than to be restricted to one room, however large. Second, do not prepare to entertain them too much. When the first shyness has worn off they will entertain themselves. My experience shews me that the most joyous children's parties are those where there is no set programme. If it is a large party, Punch and Judy is a never failing delight; beyond this do not have any professional help. If you observe these two rules and have plenty of wholesome and tempting-looking refreshments, I think your party will prove a success.

\* \* \*

In preparing these enjoyments for our own little people we must take care not to forget, or allow them to forget, the less fortunate ones. This is the season of goodwill to all, but there are, unfortunately, many whose Christmas will be joyless unless we hold out to them a helping hand. Out of the fulness of our joy in our own happy homes and little ones, let us give sympathy and help to these. There will be no difficulty in finding deserving objects for our goodwill. Mr. Johnson, of St. George's Hall, will be delighted to receive any gifts, however small, and then there is our own connexion Orphanage. Surely loyal Primitives ought to remember Alresford at this festive season.

\* \* \*

LAST week I attended a drawing-room meeting held on behalf of the Christian Literature Society for India. A most interesting account of the work undertaken by the society was given by the deputation, the Rev. Mr. Jackson. He showed that the society, which is purely undenominational, and helps every missionary cause in India, in no way competes with the Bible Society and the Religious Tract Society, but undertakes the publication of educational and other works of help to the missionaries and their pupils, but which are not of the class published by the former societies. The great need of this is clearly realised by those acquainted with India. The bazaars are flooded with atheistic and other harmful literature, which is readily devoured by the natives as soon as they have learned to read in the Government schools. Having taught them to read, we ought surely to see that wholesome literature is placed within their reach. His account of the Zenana work was both thrilling and instructive. He spoke most highly of the work of the lady missionaries and doctors, by whose efforts alone the women of India can be reached. Europeans who have never visited the East cannot possibly realize the degraded position which woman occupies in the Hindoo mind. Perhaps his statement, that in Bengal alone there are more than four thousand baby widows under one year of age, who will grow up into despised drudges and never be allowed to marry, made us realize more than anything else the need of more Christian women to help to carry the light to this dark land. As a denomination our missions lie in Africa, and we have now a greater incentive than ever before to work for the missionary cause in Mr. Hartley's noble offer towards the establishment of a medical mission. I would suggest that this offer be explained in our Sunday schools and Christian Endeavour Societies. Doubtless, most of them would be willing to make a yearly grant or collection for the object. The C.E. did nobly for the Oron Institute, and what has been done can be done again.

Answers to Correspondents.

A. P. Scotland:—I will refer to the subject you name in my next.



## International Sunday School Lesson.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW.  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1905.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—'Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.'—Psalm lxx. 11.

**HYMNS.**—571, 564, 563, 558.

**TIME.**—The time covered by the lessons of the quarter is just over 100 years from 538 B.C. to 430 B.C. or thereabouts, the exact date of 'Malachi's' prophecy not being known.

**SOVEREIGNS.**—Cyrus, the Medo-Persian, Ahasuerus, and Artaxerxes, while most of the lessons have their setting in Jerusalem, yet throughout all, Palestine was tributary to the great Persian Empire, which lasted on to B.C. 333.

**PROMINENT PERSONS.**—Daniel, Ezra, Zerubbabel, Zachariah, Esther, Haman, Mordecai, Nehemiah, and crowning all, the prophetic picture of our Lord. Each presents distinctiveness of character for imitation, and in the case of Haman for warning.

I.—The dominant note of the lessons for the quarter is that of hope, born of an intense zeal for the honour of Divine things and working out in needed and useful reform. It would be difficult to group into a series of lessons a more delightful setting of brave witness, of heroic and self-forgetting service, of richer quality, than is presented to us in this review to-day, and the inspiring and open secret of it all is,

### Enthusiasm for God.

The absence of that explains the disgrace and defeat of the previous three months' lessons. The revival of it in Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah explains the daring and devotion which not only restores the glory of an ancient city, it supplies the historic background from which emerges that greatest of the world's reformers, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose enthusiasm for best things is the source of everything good in our modern world. Taking the lessons as a whole, marking that each suggests reform, and makes some contribution toward it, it is important that the teacher should lay emphasis upon this all-inclusive qualification. How have the reforms of the world been secured? How are we to escape captivity to low ideals? how repair the wastes of former years? how build a temple worthy of our God? Only by a passion for Him, a desperation of love before which everything else goes down.

II.—Taking that as a key, the persons provide abundant material for these closing studies. In Daniel, Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah we see how it secures the first condition of reform, viz.,

### Dissatisfaction with Existing Conditions.

In each case their own personal comfort and position was secured. Had they been ease-loving and selfish, had no higher vision dawned upon them, the lessons of this quarter would have been impossible. The teacher will recall how in each instance the personal character and ability of these great workers had placed them in high office, secure and permanent, too, so far as was possible in eastern courts. Nor is it enough to say that patriotism, love of Fatherland, made them discontent, restless, eager to face difficulty and danger. That cause is not equal to the wonderful effects opened to us in these persons. They had seen the King! They had caught the vision of a divine standard, and all else seemed paltry in comparison. If we are to feel a holy discontent with our own poor life, with the sin and sorrow amidst which the year is closing, we, too, must know the thrill of unbounded enthusiasm for our Lord.

III.—Following that discovery, and still guided by this key, we come naturally, for it always accompanies and follows such an awakening, upon the

### Determination to Reform

existing conditions. The teacher will abundantly illustrate this further lesson of our review by recalling the heroic witness and suffering of Daniel (*Lesson 2*), the religious zeal of Zerubbabel and Ezra (*Lessons 3, 4, 5*), the consecrated tact of Queen Esther (*Lesson 6*), and the fine combination of prayer and work in Nehemiah (*Lessons 8, 10, 11*). But the highest example of all is given us in the prophetic studies of our last two lessons, where is excelled the resolute and unsparing devotion to the work of reforming and redeeming men seen in Him who is 'the messenger of the covenant,' to whom indeed every reforming work is due. Here, again, the key of our review study assists us. Enthusiasm for Him will save our good desires from evaporating in mere sentiment or even ending itself in a prayer. It will deliver us from the fear of difficulty or the dread of sacrifice, it will compel us at all costs to become 'workers together with God,' and though it means sometimes 'a spear in one hand and a trowel in the other, because of enemies within and without, we shall 'continue in the work till the wall is built,' until 'the night cometh, when no man can work.'

The true vision of God will give us the right view of the work calling for our help, and the clear vision of our duty. And is not this the true point of view of *Lesson 9*? If God is our supreme love and we care most of all that His cause triumphs, what of little considerations of personal taste and society standards? Shall we not scorn them and enthusiastically give ourselves to the work of delivering others from a ruin so dreadful as the one of drink?

IV.—Where shall we find and obtain the necessary encouragement to attempt this entirely noble ministry? Recall the examples of the lessons under review. How enormous the work before Daniel, Zerubbabel, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah? What risks they ran! What more than human strength they required! And we know by their habit the secret of their power. Ours is scarcely a less difficult task. Being a Christian and doing a Christian's part is never an easy thing, only as love makes it easy. Think of the building to be reared within us? Let us try to understand to what beauty and power we can attain! Then look outside. Does not our own England need what Nehemiah felt Jerusalem needed when tidings reached him of her dilapidation? What our Lord Himself felt when, looking out upon the multitudes, He was moved with compassion? Who is sufficient for these things? Is not the complete answer found in the last two verses of our lesson for last week? (Isaiah ix. 6-7.)

HENRY J. PICKETT.

## Christian Endeavour.

Topic for Week beginning Dec. 31st.

Looking Backward.

Deut. viii. 2-20. (Old Year Meeting.)

THESE are times when looking backward is fatal. When the duty of the hour demands the concentration of every power of mind and body and soul, a lingering backward look sometimes makes all the difference between success and failure. There are times in life when we must forget the things that are behind, and press forward, when we must leave the dead past to bury its dead, while we act in the living present. When the lifeboat is to be launched to save men from a watery grave there is no time for reminiscence. Men think only of the task before them, for a moment lost may mean the loss of precious lives. How many people there are who spend days in vain regrets and thoughts of what life might have been who should be atoning for the past by present diligence.

### II.

There are, however, times when we may fittingly review the past in order to better learn its lessons and fit ourselves for future service. On birthdays and anniversaries, when the old year passes and the new year dawns, we may well tarry on the threshold of the new year to sum up the lessons and experiences of the days that are gone. It is not quite so easy for youth to do this as it is for age. Youth has everything before it. The days and months pass too slowly. There are ambitions which are far ahead, and we are waiting for our opportunities. We move all too slowly to our manhood. Age has left its best days behind, and reminiscence is easy and delightful. It is well, however, that we should pause sometimes in the march of life and remember.

### III.

Remembrance of good is often a stimulus and a defence. The youth away from home will not easily go astray if he remembers a mother's prayers. He will not easily forget God if he keeps in remembrance the deliverances of the past, or fall into sin if he remembers the merciful Saviour who brought the sense of the forgiveness to his heart. If he remembers the unhappiness which disobedience caused he will seek to obey. If, like David, he looks back to the time when God delivered him from the paw of the lion and the bear he will not fear when Goliath stands before him. Like Israel, we need to remember the hand that led us in the wilderness, that saved us when we were resourceless, that fed us when hungering in the desert, and provided for all our need. 'Count your blessings' has become a popular hymn with many to-day, and though it presents an impossible sum in arithmetic, we sometimes need to listen to its exhortation

'When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.'

### IV.

History has given wonderful emphasis to the truth of the final passage in our lesson, 'If thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.' In the past every nation that has forgotten God has perished. We are in danger of treading the same path to destruction. Mammon and pleasure are the idols of to-day and there is the danger of these becoming—with the lust of empire—the cause of our national undoing. We have been warned of this by one who does not often write in a serious strain, but in his 'Recessional' Rudyard Kipling expresses truth that needs to be burnt into the conscience of England. Let us read and consider them again—

God of our fathers, known of old,  
Lord of our far-flung battle line,  
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold  
Dominion over palm and pine;  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies,  
The captains and the kings depart;  
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,  
An humble and a contrite heart.

Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called our navies melt away,  
On dune and headland sinks the fire,  
So, all our pomp of yesterday  
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre;

Judge of the nations, spare us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose  
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,  
Such boasting as the Gentiles use,  
Or lesser breeds without the law;  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

### Junior Topic.

December 31st.

### Counting our Mercies.

(Ps. ciii. 1-6; cv. 1-5.)

Here is a subject which enables the junior superintendent to enlist the help of all the juniors. Let every one be asked to think over the topic during the week previous, and come prepared to tell of some blessing given by God. The daily readings suggest some life, health, home, friends, the church and the C.E. Our greatest blessing is the gift of Christ.

All other gifts are poor without Him, but through Him we have all that is best worth having.

We cannot count all God's blessings any more than we can count the sands on the seashore or the dew-drops on the grass, but that is no reason why we should not think of as many as we can. If when we try to count our blessings we find that the task is impossible, it will, at any rate, bring home to our minds a sense of the wonder and vastness of the storehouse of God's love from which he lavishes gifts upon men.

Tell the children of Cornucopia, the horn of plenty. Just as it overflowed with luscious fruits, so God's great horn of blessing runs over for us. God does not only give us plenty, he gives abundance.

GEORGE AYRE.

## The Liberator Relief Fund.

By Rev. J. STOCKWELL WATTS.

(Continued from December 14th.)

A *Paper Maker* (aged 67, Baptist), who, with his wife, by the severest struggle has succeeded, since the Liberator crash, in obtaining the barest subsistence, until recently, when special circumstances of need compelled them to apply for temporary assistance. He writes:—

'Dear Sir.—Hearing of your good work for the 'Liberator' victims, we are appealing to you for help. The wife and I are both well over 60 years of age. When in work we saved a bit of money for old age, and were persuaded by a good friend to invest it in the 'Liberator' scheme. My friend, who had every confidence in the concern, was Mr. N—, of T—, a good Christian man, who himself suffered severely by its collapse. I, of course, lost all. Now we are old, it would help us. We have a little hand-laundry here, but the season has been bad, and this month all the people being away has thrown us on beam ends. We are behind with rent, and rates are due. We know not how to raise the money. If we had a few pounds to help us over this difficulty (work is coming in), we could then get a bit of bread and pay our way. With the blessing of good health, we are both able to do the work and get a living, when we have it to do.

'We have been putting off the evil day of appealing for help as long as possible, hoping for more work, to pay our way. We are promised work for next month, and if we could pay current expenses I am satisfied we could pull through; but I don't know where to look for any, and dread the alternative if we can't get the money now. We would sooner go Home to Heaven if it be God's will to take us. These are the bare facts of our bad state. The proof papers are enclosed. I must leave it with you and pray for some help and for you and your good work. I am, yours truly, &c.

### Notes of Gratitude.

Once again I gladly pass on to all who have been my loyal and steadfast helpers in this truly Christ-like effort, a few notes of gratitude, selected from scores that are continually coming to us from time to time.

An *Afflicted Nurse* (age 60), who lost £450, and is now sadly crippled, and incapacitated for work by a painful form of rheumatism, writes—

'Dear Sir.—It seems right that I should let you know that a friend, who used to send me occasional help, is now sending increased regular help, and also has promised to do so while she can. This is by no means sufficient to keep me, being unable now to earn anything whatever. I had been expecting something from the Relief Fund, but had not the heart to ask, trusting that you would send if possibly you could. And getting the above, I was enabled to meet the daily needs so far, put off requirements such as could possibly bear to be put off for the time.'

An *Aged Couple* (aged 73 and 75.) One of those cases to which we have been enabled to send a slightly increased grant. The wife writes—

'Dear Sir.—I received your letter with the enclosed cheque this morning. I do thank you and your Committee very much indeed. We are so thankful for it, as my husband has not been able to earn anything at all for three years. All we have coming in is 5s. a week from his club. We have no friends able to help us, but God is good to us. We old people don't want much, and not for much longer. Thanking you, dear Sir, very much indeed.—I remain, yours, etc.

(To be continued.)

## Fully £10,000 Urgently Needed for New Cases.

Cheques and P.O.'s should be made payable to the 'Liberator' Relief Fund, crossed the 'London City and Midland Bank,' and sent to the Secretary, the

Rev. J. STOCKWELL WATTS,

16 Farringdon Street,

London, E.C.

## THE REFORM OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

SIR.—We believe that the future of religion in our country will be vastly affected by the efficiency or otherwise of Sunday schools, though we do not think with Prof. Peake, that the Christianity of the people is dependent—if not entirely, almost entirely—upon the reform of the Sunday school. No one is quite satisfied with present results, though they afford encouragement and excite large gratitude; and all interested, respect, and give sincere thanks to any one who seeks either to introduce better methods or make more effective those at present pursued. No one is quite satisfied with the present results of preaching, training of ministers, or any other form of Christian toil. Let it be said that we accept in the main the Professor's idea of what ought to be the outcome of our teaching, for that is our aim, that is, that our scholars should leave the schools with an intelligent conception of the truth, and especially that Christianity should be a living possession, inspiring and controlling the whole life.

Professor Peake criticises very minutely and severely the system of International Lessons, but admits some good in the system, and that it is better than the absence of system that preceded it. He honours teachers who use it and do their best with it. He owns that great authorities approve and assist it by useful publications. His remarks about Sunday school teaching being dominated by publishers, and run for profit, and the reference to Demetrius, are not up to the high level of the rest of the papers, and cannot be accepted without more evidence than he gives. A great effort is made to show up the defects of the International Lesson System, and no one would claim perfection for it. But 'it holds the field.' Most of the criticisms urged lie equally against the plan later on outlined, and some others, which lead some of us to say, 'The old is better.'

The first criticism in the second article was painful reading to some, and rather prejudiced what followed. We are told that it is not necessary to make a definite portion of Scripture the basis of every lesson—'I regard the whole idea as a mere fetish.' Selected portions may from time to time be read in classes. The system leaves time for nothing else. Lessons on scripture portions should be reduced by seventy-five per cent. The Bible is so large a book that to keep the usual plan means that the task is accomplished most imperfectly 'while it leaves other tasks, even more urgent, altogether untouched.' *The italics are ours.* Surely it applies to preaching and ministers may dispense with text and book sometimes. Is Bible teaching a fetish to us? We venture the remark that nothing subsequently written proves that anything is more urgent than knowledge of the scriptures. Nothing follows to justify the suggestion that the text book of the schools for three quarters of the year need not be the Bible. The paragraph made us say 'O the pity of it.' Sunday School reform, to reform the Bible out of the children's hands three Sundays out of four, and give books on theology, apologetics, etc. This is not reform, it is revolution. Subsequent papers modified the impression made. Later on we get a plea for large blocks of Scripture to be read and not snippets, and recommendations for lengthy readings of the Bible, as being of more value than teachers' remarks upon them; but how this is to be accomplished with seventy-five per cent. less time for Bible reading we are not told.

Many of the criticisms urged rest upon the assumption that the teacher does not supply the connecting link between lesson and lesson, or show the ultimate outcome of things which comprise the main subject of the lesson. The Professor thinks teachers ought to study books, not helps in newspapers and magazines. Surely the teacher must be considered a little, especially until those better equipped offer themselves. He thinks they would if our schools were reformed. They ought not to wait until then. The failure to secure them as preachers does not make some of us very sanguine of securing them in schools.

With what is said on the teaching of the Prophets, and so beautifully said, most will agree; but if we are to have only one chapter in Isaiah, some of us prefer the liii. to the vi. We could wish for more of the Psalms, but if we have three—those we have—xxii., xxxii., li., satisfy us. John Ruskin's mother insisted upon the one that it is suggested could be replaced by another, the xxxii., and with good result. This is the place to note, that while later on the memorising of large portions of the Bible is recommended, it is said to be a sheer waste to get a child to learn Psalm cxix. John Ruskin did it, and in later life wrote 'It is strange that of all the pieces of the Bible which my mother taught me—that which cost me most to learn and which was to my child's mind, most impulsive, the 119th Psalm—has now become of all the most precious to me, in its overflowing and glorious passion of love for the law of God.' The suggestion that Paul can be better understood by scholars from the Epistles than from the Acts does not commend itself. Surely both in measure are best. It is said the Gospel of St. John has too much theology in it for children, but why emphasise the theology? Some of us want to get an early place for the young for John iii., xi., xiv., xv., xvii., xxi., as amongst the choicest of scripture. When we are told that the teaching is to come through facts, that we are to give the concrete, and not abstract teaching, we entirely agree. We have no objection to a catechism, and certainly go in for good singing of carefully chosen hymns—good libraries for scholars and teachers are very desirable. Biblical knowledge and equipment in apologetics are desirable for elder scholars, as are lessons on doctrines. As our schools are, and as our workers are, the present system is not found wanting in itself. It needs to be better in execution. A complete consecration is required by some of our teachers, but the devotion of others is of the very highest. We sincerely hope the question will be freely debated in your columns.

Let no loving, self-denying teacher, working with slender apparatus, be discouraged, but while doing his best to equip himself intellectually, remember that a loving heart is often a finer instrument in the hand of God than a keen intellect, though He uses both. If the latter is denied, the former is attainable by the Holy Spirit's shedding Divine love within.

Kingston-on-Thames.

GEORGE TRUSLER.

## The African Deputation.

S. S. Fantec.  
Friday Morning, Dec. 8th, 1905.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.

We expect in about two hours to be at Grand Canary, and as letters will be put on shore will you afford us this opportunity of sending greetings to you and our many friends interested in our mission? We are glad to report ourselves well.

The first few days of the journey were not of the most pleasant, many passengers, and at least one of the Deputation—we will not here divulge which—succumbed to sea sickness.

The weather is now getting delightful, bright and warm, and passengers are beginning to appear in summer clothing.

We shall be grateful if you will permit us to warmly thank the many friends who gave us so encouraging a send off both at Manchester and Liverpool, and also those who wrote and wired their good wishes. Although undeserving of all the good things said and done to us, we will at all events endeavour to merit the confidence reposed in us.

With heartiest good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

JAMES PICKETT,  
FREDK. C. LINFIELD.

## JAPANESE BAZAAR.

### Blackburn First. Montague Street.

WE have just held a three days' Bazaar and raised £205 1s. to pay outstanding liabilities and reduce church debt. The amount raised is remarkable, as the people have only been working about two months. The system, unity, energy, kindness and giving leaves nothing to be desired. We were well served by Messrs. E. W. Cleary, W. Heald, and Mrs. Shimmin as presidents, as openers Alderman James Cocker, J.P., Mrs. Cort, and Mr. R. Warburton. We enjoyed the good speeches, and were greatly helped by their generous donations. The children's opening, presided over by Mrs. Shimmin, was wonderfully bright and effective. Votes of thanks were moved by Messrs. Cort, G. Porter, G. E. Walker, and F. N. Shimmin. There was great joy and gratitude when the following results were declared by our excellent secretary, Mr. Gilbert Porter.

Stalls—Married ladies, in charge of Mesdames Shimmin, Cort, Laycock, £40. Young ladies, Misses Bonney and N. Shimmin, £24 5s. 2½d. Children, Misses Gyton, Pritchard, Atherton, Chastney, Bradley £24 2s. 3d. Men's, Messrs. Parkinson, Laycock, Gregson £41 2s. 2½d. Refreshments, Mesdames Kendal, Walsh, Witton £17 15s. 3d. Flowers, Mrs. Jones, Miss Grimshaw £4 10s. Post Office and Battery, Messrs. A. Shimmin, Moore, Avery, and W. Shimmin £4 16s. 4½d. Entertainments, etc., £5 8s. 5½d. Grand total £205 1s.

We thank God, and all who have so generously given and worked for this successful bazaar.

## NEW MISSION HALL.

### Derby Third.

### Memorial Stone-Laying.

NEARLY twenty years ago a cause was commenced in Harrison street, and in 1887 a wooden structure was purchased, to which the mission was transferred. The fortunes of the church have varied, but the small band of workers have held on. More than once the trustees have had to satisfy the Corporation by repairs, but recently that authority has demanded that the place should be removed, casting upon us the responsibility of a considerable outlay or the abandonment of our work. The latter course we could not entertain. We had therefore to request the Church Extension Fund Committee to come to our help. This they did, offering to pay interest on a sum of money to be cleared off in ten years.

Plans were prepared by Mr. F. S. Antliff, and the builders have set about the work. The Memorial Stone-Laying was celebrated last Wednesday. Rev. G. G. Martindale conducted the proceedings, and among many present were Revs. J. Wenn, R. Smith, G. T. Fawcett, Councillors C. Wain and H. J. Blount, Messrs. W. Titterton, G. Morley, G. Dean, T. Osborne, A. Morgan, W. Silkstone, C. H. Jeffrey. Stones were laid by Mr. J. Wilkinson, Mr. F. H. Porter, Mr. H. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Banner, the Rev. J. Wenn (for the Derby Third Circuit), Mr. H. Whitworth (for the trustees), Mr. R. Day (for the school), Mr. R. Grantham, Mrs. Morgan, and Mrs. Bates (on behalf of herself and Miss Lovatt). Tea was provided by the generosity of Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Banner. A public meeting was held in the Central Church, Mr. E. C. Handley being chairman, and inspiring addresses were given by Revs. M. Knowlson (Nottingham), and T. B. Caukwell (Ripley). We are much cheered in our attempt to provide for forward work.

### Manchester.

The committees of the District met in the John Rylands' Library, Manchester, on Friday last. There was a large amount of business and a good attendance. Mr. R. Lewis presided over the morning committees. The Rev. G. Hunt presented the report of the Scholars' Scripture Examinations, and urged more careful training of the scholars that better results might be achieved. The circular from the Central C. E. Council was introduced by the Rev. J. Swinden, who was authorized to join in the appeal to the societies for support to the Oron Institute Fund. Reports of successful temperance conventions were given by Rev. S. R. Woodall.

The Rev. G. Armitage was chairman of the committees in the afternoon. Rev. W. Barker reported that the cost of the conference luncheon was being subscribed by the circuits of the District, which had responded generously. Encouraging reports of work were received from Manchester I, Horwich, and Bacup. Extension work is to be carried out at Swinton and Stockport. The trustees of Chorlton were congratulated on raising £400 towards debt reduction and a new organ.

## Services and Preachers.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th.

HARRINGAY, Mattison Road, Rev. T. J. Gladwin at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

HARROGATE, Dragon Parade, Rev. J. T. Barkby at 11 and 6.30.

MATLOCK, Matlock Bank, Rev. J. Burton at 10.30 and 6.30.

MANSFIELD (Nottingham Road), December 24th, 6 p.m. Enoch Milson (Evangelist).

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Central Church, Rev. A. T. Guttery at 10.30 and 6.30.

RYDE, I.W., High Street, Rev. E. Barrett, 10.30 and 6.30.

### Death of Mr. T. C. Lawrence.

THE early and unexpected death, in his thirty-ninth year, of Mr. T. C. Lawrence, only son of Mr. T. Lawrence, of Leicester, has occasioned widespread sympathy throughout the church in which his father for many years has taken such a foremost position. As yet the particulars of the sad occurrence are not known save that death was caused through double pneumonia. The distressed and bereaved family and numerous friends eagerly await the coming of the next mail, by which full particulars will arrive. For the sorrowing widow, so soon bereaved, there will be much tender sympathy, as also for the father, mother, and sisters at home, all of whom were so devotedly attached to their loved one.

Mr. Tom Cromwell Lawrence, until six years ago, was associated with his father in business, but he had little taste for manufacturing or commercial pursuits, although he had many good and valuable business qualities. From boyhood he was an adept with his pencil. He had a true artist's eye, and saw beauty in every work of God—woods, flowers, trees, animals, insects, everything. Botany opened up fields of delight. The habits of animals great and small, and the life of birds and things that fly or creep or swim all were beautiful, and he could and did make their beauty to appear in his work. He was a true humourist, without the least suspicion of vulgarity, and his cartoons, full of satire, were without bitterness. For many years he used his leisure in drawing illustrations and was a large contributor to the Christian World Annual. 'Rosebud,' I think children could please him most, and draw out his best. In America he was an illustrator of books and a contributor of articles as well as illustrations to various periodicals and magazines.

He went to London in January, 1900, and spent his summer holiday that year in Holland, sketching. In June, 1901, he went to America, took a studio in New York, and was doing well. His studio was in 5th Avenue. Last year he married Miss Helen Hallock, a young lady whose father was and is the director of one of the largest houses in New York, similar to Smith Jones of London. He was married in April, 1904, and at once came home with his bride and had a very happy time with his friends, returning to America at the end of July. They were married by the Rev. Joe Odell, and the wedding was at Mr. Hallock's house, 171 Leferts Place, Brooklyn. It was here, while on a visit, a fortnight or more ago, that Mr. Lawrence was suddenly seized with double pneumonia, which was fatal in a few days. The first telegram last Tuesday said he was critically ill, the next that he had passed away.

THE Christmas season brings us numerous appeals for help. The resources of our church allow us to touch but a small fragment of the great social need, but such as we have touched we must support to the best of our ability.

THE church at Higher Ardwick, Manchester, appeals to our readers for contributions towards a free breakfast on Christmas morning for 1,000 half-starved children in East Manchester. Gifts can be sent to the minister, Rev. Jas. Jackson, 39 Richmond Grove, Longsight.

THE Rev. James Watkin also appeals on behalf of the work of Surrey Chapel among the poor of Blackfriars. Gifts of money or clothing will be most acceptable, and should be sent to Mr. Watkin at Surrey Chapel, Blackfriars Road, S.E.

THE Rev. W. Watson forwards us the twenty-first annual report of the Clapton Mission. The report is crowded with facts showing how many sided the mission is, and how, with a comparatively small income, it touches the various interests of the poor of the locality. There are but few who do not know something about the work commenced at Clapton by the Rev. T. Jackson, and now so energetically carried on by Mr. Watson. Mr. Watson's appeal for Christmas gifts in our last issue will be borne in mind by our readers.

MISS ETHEL PRATT, of Mill Hill, Blackburn, is among the successful candidates for the diploma of A.L.C.M. This has caused widespread satisfaction among her many friends. Miss Pratt is the daughter of our esteemed superintendent at Mill Hill, and both father and daughter are assiduous workers in our church there.

AMONG the successful candidates in the recent London University Examination was Mr. R. G. Newton, son of the Rev. G. Newton, he having passed his final B.Sc.

MR. J. PARKIN, one of our worthy local preachers, has been re-elected president of the Appleby and District Free Church Council.

### Darlington.

THE services in connection with the choir anniversary at Florence Street have just been held. Sermons were preached by Mr. Sam Wilson. In the afternoon a sacred concert was given by the choir. Mr. Searle sang 'Nazareth' at the evening service, and during the collection played the Hallelujah Chorus (Handel). The services were very successful, congregations good, and financial results very satisfactory.

### MINISTERS and Locals.

Do you know Men or Women suffering from Back-ache, Dropsy, Disease of Kidneys, Sciatica, or Gout? If so, please send name and address on post card to HOLDROYD'S MEDICAL HALL, CLECKHEATON, when a box of Holdroyd's Gravel Pills will be sent post free.

Mrs. A. Wilkinson, of Nelson, states:—My sister, who suffered from weak kidneys, took one box, and it has done her more good than pounds spent on Medical Men.



## QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

### Bottesford.

The quarterly meeting was held at Bottesford on December 4th. There was a good attendance, and the business was done with unanimity. The circuit was found to be numerically prosperous. A cordial and unanimous invitation was given to the Rev. W. Radnor to remain for a third year, which he accepted.

### Burnopfield.

Quarterly meeting held at Burnopfield Colliery on the 9th inst. Rev. B. Dennison presided and Rev. A. Longstaff secretary. It was reported that there had been an increase in membership at several places. The statement of the steward, Mr. T. Brabban, showed that the income was the largest in the Station's history. After meeting the ordinary claims, and a special account of over £30 for re-furnishing, there was a balance in hand. Preparations are being made for commencing to build at Chopwell early in the new year. Plans for a new church and school at Dipton were approved. It is hoped that the foundation stones will be laid in the spring. Balance sheets of building schemes which have just been completed at Whinfield and Victoria Garesfield were received. The Rev. B. Dennison was invited to remain a second year, and the Rev. A. Longstaff a fifth. Both invitations were accepted.

### Cardiff Second.

Quarterly meeting held on Wednesday under the presidency of Rev. A. Smith. Good attendance of officials and harmony prevailed. An increase of eight members was reported. Our prospects of future success are hopeful. The circuit and society stewards were re-elected. Mr. Herbert Tracey was recommended for the ministry. Rev. R. W. Nelson received and accepted an invitation to remain till 1907.

### Castleford.

Quarterly meeting held at Pontefract Road, the Rev. W. Wheeler presiding. Mr. E. Hyde acted as secretary. There was a large attendance. Reports were read dealing with the various institutions and were considered satisfactory. After meeting all financial demands the steward had a balance in hand. It was decided to hold a circuit convention early in the new year. The Rev. W. Wheeler accepted a unanimous invitation for a third year. Mr. E. Hyde is engaged to stay a sixth year. Mr. H. B. Parnaby was recommended as a candidate for the ministry.

### Docking.

The December quarterly meeting was made the occasion for a circuit gathering. Tea was provided and a large number sat down. In the evening a service of song, entitled 'George Whitfield,' was rendered by the united choirs, under the leadership of Mr. R. Raines. The service was a great success. This quarter day was one of the most successful ever held. We began the quarter with a deficit of £8, which has been entirely met. We have held most successful missionary services. Our ministers, Rev. I. Ashworth and G. R. Brake, were unanimously invited to remain a second year and accepted. It is pleasing to note that a revival of interest in the work of God is manifest in all our societies.

### Doncaster Second.

Quarterly Meeting held December 2nd. While compelled to report a small decrease of members, yet the brethren were encouraged to see signs of blessing throughout the circuit. Arrangements made to hold revival services at each place. The Armthorpe chapel, which has been closed four years, has been renovated and re-opened with encouraging results. One was saved at the first Sunday service, and we have now a congregation of between forty and fifty. Land secured for new church and schools at Wheatley, and an application to the Church Extension Fund for a free loan of £1,000 was sanctioned. It is hoped to build a church next year to accommodate about 700 people. Rev. C. T. Hodson, B.A., was cordially and unanimously recommended for the ministry.

### Foxhill Bank and Accrington.

Quarterly Meeting was held at Foxhill Bank. A large attendance. Income £181 4s. 3d., the outgo £179 3s. 9d. Sanction given to Foxhill Bank society to hold a bazaar in aid of new schools. Report for the quarter indicative of steady progress. Special missions arranged for Foxhill Bank and Whalley Road churches by Miss Perratt and Mr. John Robinson and party in the coming quarter.

### Hartlepool.

Quarterly meeting just held. Rev. C. Humble chairman, and Mr. T. Bulmer secretary. Membership same as last quarter. Circuit steward's report showed a balance of £32, and is a record balance. Such financial prosperity is all the more remarkable because of the prevailing trade depression. Approval was given to proposed purchase of site of land for new church at Central Estate.

### Harwich.

The quarterly meeting was held at the Central Church on Wednesday. Rev. A. Sutcliffe presided and presented the reports, which showed an all-round improvement, both in numbers

and finance, and after paying current expenses left a balance of £11 in hand. The officials spoke in high terms of the excellent work of the superintendent, and gave him a pressing invitation for a second year, which was accepted.

### Market Rasen.

The quarterly meeting was held at Caistor, December 6th, with more than the average attendance. Business transacted in an expeditious manner. During the quarter several missions have been held, with cheering results. We report the membership as last quarter. The missionary meetings all showed an advance in income. Circuit income steadily increases, and but for an old-standing deficit would have met the outgo. A circuit conference followed, when a paper was read on 'The Local Preacher, his Position and Work.' Mr. A. J. Horsefield gave an excellent homily on 'The Elder Brother.' At the public meeting, Mr. G. R. Urry, Mr. J. Brignton, and Mr. I. Ringrose spoke on selected topics. Mr. D. Foston presided. The Caistor friends provided an excellent luncheon and tea.

### Menmouth.

Quarterly meeting held Monday, the 4th inst. Small attendance. Members as last quarter. Deficit balance slightly reduced. Lengthy agenda amicably dispatched. Circuit considered healthy. Arrangements made for District Convention for the deepening of spiritual life, to be held in February. Grant voted for Local Preachers' Aid.

### Ramsgate.

Quarterly meeting held at Minster. Encouraging reports of financial and numerical prosperity. Marked success has attended the new movement in connection with Denmark Road Church, since the appointment of Mr. Alex. R. Maxwell as hired local preacher. Congregations have increased from 50 to 250; 30 new members have been received. The whole neighbourhood has been moved by his ministry. The Rev. Bertram Portnell was accorded a unanimous invitation for next year.

### Retherham Second.

The quarterly meeting was held at Masbro' Rev. C. Matheson presiding. The report showed success throughout the circuit, the funds being considerably in advance of last year. Mr. H. Houghton was re-elected circuit steward. Some action was also taken with regard to the appointment of a successor to Rev. C. Matheson in 1907.

### Sheffield First.

The quarterly meeting was held at Bethel Chapel, the Rev. S. A. Barron in the chair. The reports indicated general progress, and that of the new Central Mission, submitted by Rev. H. Taylor, was specially gratifying, showing remarkable progress had been made, and giving promise of greater results. The numerical report showed an increase of 22 members, and the financial statement by the circuit steward (Mr. E. P. Westby) showed that the income had met the expenditure. The Revs. S. A. Barron, J. T. Goodridge, and H. Taylor received and accepted cordial invitations for next year.

### Sheffield Second.

The quarterly meeting was held at Stanley Street. Rev. G. Ford presided, and the reports indicated general prosperity. The financial statement by the circuit steward (Mr. T. Robson) showed the income had met the expenditure. A cordial invitation was given to Rev. G. Ford to remain another year, which he accepted.

### Sheffield Third.

We held our quarterly meeting at Petro Street, Rev. F. Jeffis presiding. The candidates for the plan were received, and Mr. H. Gibbons was recommended as a candidate for the ministry. The report of membership showed a net increase for the quarter, and the successful services in various parts of the circuit by Miss Linton were cordially recognised. A satisfactory balance sheet was presented by the stewards, Messrs. C. Hindmarsh and G. Frost, who were unanimously re-elected.

### Sheffield Fourth.

The quarterly meeting was held in the Martin Street Mission. The Rev. G. Newman presided. The scheme for the more efficient training and equipment of local preachers was discussed, and steps taken to secure the active co-operation of the lay preachers in the circuit. The superintendent reported the completion of the building scheme of the Sunday School Institute and class rooms at Walkley. The trustees and superintendent were congratulated on the exceptional success which had attended their enterprise. The numerical report showed the number of members to be the same as last quarter. The balance sheet presented by the steward (Mr. John Parker) showed a small deficit.

### Sheffield Fifth.

Quarterly meeting held at John Street on the 4th inst. Rev. P. Nune presided. The report showed an increase of members for the quarter. The financial statement submitted by the circuit steward (Mr. Henry Adams) showed the income had been well

maintained, but in consequence of considerable special expenditure there was a small deficit. Mr. Adams received the thanks of the meeting for his long continued and valuable services as steward and was cordially re-elected. His recent generous gift of six dozen chairs for the use of the Sunday schools and institutes was also gratefully acknowledged. The interests of the connexional orphanage and the local hospitals were considered, and arrangements made for special collections for their funds. £42 1s. 5d. had been contributed by the circuit to the Home and Foreign missionary funds. The chairman reported that Hodgson Street church had paid £100 off its trust debt, and that an effort would shortly be made for a further reduction of £100. Mrs. Elizabeth Adams kindly entertained the members of the quarterly meeting at tea.

### Sheffield Sixth.

The quarterly meeting was held at Clay Street on the 2nd inst., Rev. W. Travis in the chair and Mr. W. Fowler secretary. The report of members showed an increase on March last, and the financial statement by the circuit steward (Mr. R. Crisp) showed the expenditure had exceeded the income. An appeal on behalf of the Connexional Orphanage was strongly recommended.

Mr. H. Allen was recommended as a candidate for the ministry. It was intimated that the Rev. W. Travis would complete forty years in the ministry on the 11th of March next. The meeting heartily congratulated him on having served the church so long and so efficiently.

### Sheffield Seventh.

Quarterly meeting held on the 4th inst. at Langsett Road. The Rev. R. W. B. Whiteway presided, and Mr. A. Drake secretary. The numerical and financial reports indicated general improvement, and arrangements were completed for a circuit bazaar at the end of the month, by which it is expected to raise £250 for circuit purposes. The Rev. R. W. B. Whiteway received and accepted a unanimous invitation to remain another year. The Aged and Necessitous Local Preachers' Aid Fund was considered, and arrangements made for collections in its behalf.

### Sheffield Eighth.

The quarterly meeting was held at Ann's Road on the 4th inst., the Rev. J. Bowness presiding, Mr. S. H. Pashley secretary. The numerical report showed the same number of members as last quarter. The financial statement by Mr. George Sivil showed the income had been sufficient to meet the expenditure and pay off a long-standing debt. Mr. Sivil was heartily thanked for the special effort he had made for this object, and was unanimously invited to continue his services. He, however, declined, and Mr. J. J. Webster was elected the circuit steward. The opening of the new chapel at Woodseats was reported, and the success of the proceedings had given great encouragement.

### Sheffield Ninth.

The quarterly meeting was held on the 4th inst. in the Carterknowle Mission Hall, Rev. S. Horton in the chair. The reports indicated prosperity, and a net increase of 40 members. Arrangements were made for missions at Abbeydale, Carterknowle, and Dore, and a welcome was given to Sister Myra. Rev. S. Horton received and accepted a unanimous invitation to remain another year. Mr. Ernest Adams moved and Mr. James Sivil seconded, the following resolution:—'That as a general election seems imminent, we strongly urge all our members to vote only for such candidates for election to Parliament as will pledge themselves to support an Education Act, which will secure equal rights to Nonconformists, and such a measure of Licensing Reforms will give the people control over the liquor traffic.' It was further resolved to hold a public meeting for the purpose of placing these matters before the members of the church.

### Sheffield Tenth.

At the quarterly meeting held at Meadow Hall the Rev. E. Lacey presided. The reports were encouraging, and the balance sheet presented by the circuit steward (Mr. W. C. Maycock) showed the income had met all current claims, paid off a deficit incurred by removal expenses and replenishing the minister's house, and left a balance of £4 12s. Rev. E. Lacey received and accepted a unanimous invitation to remain another year. A resolution passed at a previous meeting in favour of seeking union with another Sheffield circuit was rescinded, the prospects of the circuit being considered sufficiently encouraging to justify continued existence as an independent circuit. The circuit steward (Mr. W. C. Maycock) was thanked for his services and re-elected.

### Sileby.

Quarterly meeting held at Mountsorrel. There was a good representation. The chief business of the meeting was the invitation of minister. The Rev. H. Land received a unanimous invitation to continue his ministry on the station, and was asked to pledge himself to remain with us until 1909. In reply Mr. Land said he much appreciated the kind expressions of the

brethren, and announced his willingness to accept the invitation. We have of late lost many members by death and removals, but we feel sure that there are days of great prosperity in store for us.

### Southport First.

Quarterly meeting held on Monday, Dec. 4th, at High Park. A remarkable work of God has broken out at High Park, where many are being saved. A hearty and unanimous invitation was given to the Rev. B. Fell to remain a fourth year, which was accepted. Mr. Fell stated that the marked interest in spiritual work had much impressed him. He however intimated that he proposed to leave Southport in 1907.

### Spalding and Holbeach.

The quarterly meeting was held on Tuesday, Dec. 5th. The finances showed that the income was sufficient to meet all the expenses of the quarter, and there was also a slight increase in the membership. A unanimous invitation was given to Rev. W. G. Softley (super.) and Mr. W. C. Grays (H.L.P.) to remain in the circuit until June, 1907, which was accepted. Since Mr. Softley and Mr. Grays came there has been quite a revival all over the circuit and the prospects are very bright.

### Teignmouth and Dawlish.

The Rev. J. H. Best (District Missionary Secretary) presided over a full quarterly meeting at Dawlish. Notwithstanding several vacancies by removals, we were able to report the same as last quarter. The outlook of our trust estates is very encouraging, and in this we gratefully recognised the zeal and devotion of our minister in bringing about the appointment of new trustees for the Teignmouth and Dawlish trusts and in placing these properties on a better basis. We sincerely regret the Rev. T. Bonney cannot accede to our unanimous invitation to remain as superintendent 1906-7.

### Upton Park.

The quarterly meeting was held on Monday, December 4th, at Manor Park, and a spirit of hopefulness prevailed. The Rev. F. W. Norris received a unanimous invitation to remain as superintendent, the last quarterly meeting having decided to honour the pledge. The Rev. H. Fletcher, of Watford, was heartily invited as second minister. Steps were also taken with the view of securing a superannuated minister to take special pastoral oversight of the new church at Seven Kings.

### Warrington.

Quarterly meeting was held at Leigh Street, Rev. C. L. Stowe in the chair. After voting £10 towards Halton Trust, there is a small balance in hand. Unanimous invitation given to Mr. Stowe to stay a third year, which was accepted. Minister's salary increased by £10 per annum. We are experiencing great prosperity. Several additions to church membership have been made.

### Wirksworth.

There was a good attendance at our quarterly meeting, presided over by the Rev. W. A. Bryant. There was much business and it was quickly despatched. The Circuit was found to be prosperous. We report the same number of members that we did last September. The Missionary round was about £3 3s. in advance. Brother John Bunting was nominated for a Deed Poll member. A series of special efforts are to be held during the quarter for debt reduction and a new chapel at Middleton. A hearty invite was given to our minister to stay another year, to which he acceded. We had a deficit of £20, through the removal of ministers and taking a better house, and this has been raised. Mr. Bryant and his wife are creating a good impression throughout the Circuit.

### Wishaw.

Quarterly meeting held on Saturday. Station found to be in a very prosperous condition. Circuit income the largest on record. Mr. George Russell was unanimously recommended as a candidate for our ministry. This makes the third candidate sent out by this circuit within recent years. The Rev. Walter Stott with unanimity was invited to superintend the circuit for a sixteenth year, which was accepted. Preparations are completed for a great effort in connection with the church anniversary, by which it is hoped and practically certain that £140 will be raised, and thus clear the entire church property of all debt.

### Castleford.

One of the most successful Sunday school convention which have been held took place last Saturday at Duke Street under the presidency of Mr. G. Denton. The Rev. W. Wheeler gave an excellent paper based upon the articles recently published by Professor Peake on 'Sunday School Reform.' The discussion was opened by Mr. W. Wood, and subsequent speakers were Mr. E. Hyde, A. Foster, and others. A tea followed, and in the evening a public meeting was presided over by Councillor J. Banks. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. E. Hyde, A. Foster, and J. Burrows, and special singing was contributed by the united choirs of Fryston and Duke Street.



## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS.

## Bradford Sixth.

The Vice-President (E. C. Rawling, Esq., of London), came to Rehoboth as an entire stranger, but has made a distinctly favourable impression, as may be gathered from the report of the Bradford 'Observer' on the annual meeting of the Free Church Council, over which Mr. Rawlings presided on Saturday, December 9th, and at which the Rev. George Eayrs (M.N.C.), and the Rev. David Walters (Congregationalist) were the speakers. The 'Observer' says, 'In his opening address the chairman, a fluent, racy, and bracing speaker, drew attention to some charges which had been made against Bradford by Earl Nelson in 'Home Re-union.' Mr. Rawlings dealt with the points in a masterly and effective style, and carried his audience with him entirely, as was evidenced by the hearty and repeated applause they evoked. On Sunday, December 10th, Mr. Rawlings preached morning and evening in our Rehoboth Church, and gave an address at the musical service in the afternoon, over which Mr. S. Field presided, Mr. W. Peace as organist, and Mr. J. Kershaw as conductor. The choir and soloists are all to be congratulated for their excellent work. On Monday evening, December 11th, Mr. Edward Bush occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Alfred Dawson (circuit steward), and the Rev. J. C. Livesey. The Vice-President delivered a most interesting and timely address on 'Our Church: its aims and Institutions.'

## Bristol Second Circuit.

The annual bazaar at Angers Road, Tottenham, has just been held. Openers—first day, Mr. J. W. Way (Wesleyan); second day, Mrs. G. W. Challenger (daughter-in-law of Rev. J. Dudley, Liverpool). Chairmen, Messrs. C. R. Perrett and H. Russett. Revs. G. Jarman, J. Davies (Baptist), W. Gregory-Harris (Wesleyan), J. Pearce, A. E. Proctor, circuit minister, and Mr. W. G. Rundle took part in the proceedings. The general stall was under the superintendence of Mrs. Rundle, a faithful worker for many years; fancy stall, Miss Rundle; refreshment stall, Mesdames Bowden, Ricks, Budd, Merchant, etc.; flower stall, Misses Smith, Allen, and Mrs. Proctor. The proceeds, about £40, are considered to be encouraging, as this is the second bazaar this year.

## Bristol Third.

A three days' excelsior bazaar has just been concluded at Eastville, which was opened as follows—First day by Mrs. C. R. Stevens, of Chippenham, Mr. J. W. Hairres presiding. Second day, by Mrs. Pearce, wife of our pastor, Mr. J. Jones presiding, and third day by a number of young people, the Rev. J. Pearce presiding in place of Mr. Culliford. We had the following stalls: Church, Mrs. Pearce, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Culliford, Mrs. Greenham and others; School and C.E., Mrs. Hacker, Mrs. Merrick, and others; Young Men's Bible Class, Mrs. Haines, Mrs. B. Pearce and others; Fruit and Fancy, Misses Harding and Misses E. and H. Pearce. Refreshments, Mrs. Kimber, Mrs. Summerill, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. J. Pearce and others. Each day the schoolroom was crowded. The Revs. T. Storr, S. Mincher, J. W. Stanyer, A. E. Proctor, and others, took part in the opening proceedings. Proceeds £139 8s.

## Chesterfield First.

A memorable missionary meeting was recently held at Holywell Cross Church. In the afternoon a sermon was preached by the Rev. S. Horton, late of the Edinburgh Central Mission. At the evening meeting the speakers were the Rev. G. E. Butt, President of the Conference, and the Rev. S. Horton. The President spoke of his work in South Africa, and delighted his audience by describing the building of the beautiful new church which has just been completed. The Rev. S. Horton commenced his address with a beautiful description of the Edinburgh of the tourist and then passed on to the Edinburgh in which his work had been done—that of the slums. He dwelt on the humorous as well as the pathetic side of slum mission work, and all present seemed greatly to enjoy his stories. Councillor Dann, of Whittington Moor, presided and a report of mission work was read by the Rev. S. Barker.

## Enfield.

On Sunday, the 3rd December, the fifth anniversary of the Y.P.S.C.E. was held, Mr. J. J. Webb, of West Ham, being the special preacher. In the afternoon a musical service was conducted by Mr. T. H. Bury, the singing being led by Mr. E. Lewis's string band. Mr. E. M. Andrews, A.T.S., gave a helpful address. On Wednesday evening, Dec. 6th, at 8 o'clock the annual rally was held, Rev. S. L. George presiding. Rev. W. C. T. Parker, chairman of the National Council, gave a stirring address. Mr. G. W. Neal, B.Sc., spoke forcefully on 'Every C.E. Society Helping its Members to reach the Highest.' The Roll Call was responded to by several local societies, also West Ham Park and Bush Hill Park Primitives, and Edmonton Independent. Encouraging reports were read by the Secretary of the seniors and the President of the

junior societies, showing good work done for the year.

## Harringay.

The annual missionary services were held on December 10th and 13th. The sermons were preached by the Rev. T. J. Gladwin. At the public meeting, in the absence of Mr. J. Tearle, the chair was taken by one of our respected church officers, Mr. Richard Brown. Mr. Gladwin read the report, and excellent addresses were given by the Rev. Thomas Mitchel, Deputy Treasurer, and the Rev. Edwin Dalton, Book Steward. Miss Sarah Dawson, one of our sweet soloists, favoured the gathering with two appropriate solos, Miss Hurd accompanying on the piano. The statement showed that £23 1s. 3d. had been secured for the General Fund, and £11 from the Sunday School and Institute for the African Fund. This, notwithstanding the heavy claims being made on the church, is £4 10s. in advance, and is an average of four shillings and threepence per member. The missionary deputation to Africa were remembered, as also the African Fund Treasurer in his family bereavement, a resolution of sympathy was passed, and forwarded to Mr. Lawrence by the pastor.

## Hartlepool Circuit.

The 54th anniversary services of the present church in Brougham Street were held on December 3rd and 6th. Sermons were preached by our circuit minister, Rev. C. Humble. On the Wednesday about 300 sat down to tea in Brougham Hall, and this was followed by a public meeting, presided over by our society steward, Mr. Youlden. Alderman Harrison, J.P., as trustee treasurer, gave the financial report, which showed £180 paid off debt during the year. Addresses were given by Revs. W. Wakinshaw (Wesleyan), and C. Humble. The net proceeds were £40 7s. 3d., the highest figure reached with the exception of the jubilee anniversary.

## Hull Third.

We have just concluded a very successful mission at Bethesda, conducted by the Rev. J. Teece. It has been a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Officials and members gladly acknowledged the great uplift of soul it has brought to them. Beside this, a large number of young people and a few adults gave themselves to Jesus. Our quarterly meeting was held on March 4th at Bethesda, and there was a goodly company of officials present. The spirit of hopefulness in the circuit is full of promise.

## Hull Fifth Circuit.

Bourne.—A grand concert was given in the schoolroom by the church choir on Thursday last to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. H. Vokes presided. Conductor, Mr. Ellis. Accompanist, Mr. Rossington. Total proceeds £9 10s. in aid of the choir funds.

## Manchester Eighth.

The annual United Missionary Meetings of the circuit have recently been held at Manchester Road. On Saturday afternoon the Ladies' Missionary Association had its meeting, and this was followed by a public tea. In the evening the centre of the church was filled for the missionary anniversary of the circuit. The chair was taken by Mr. Thomas Partington, who spoke of the local home missionary work of the past. A short but very inspiring address was given by the Rev. P. Carotte. After that, the Rev. N. Boocock delighted the audience with a graphic account of the work at Archibongville, and of the removal of the mission to Oron. It was generally thought to have been the best missionary meeting in the history of the circuit. The principal item of income was £20, raised by the Manchester Road Y.P.S.C.E. Twelve months ago this society undertook to do the missionary collecting of the churches, thinking that with vigorous working £5 might be raised. They succeeded beyond their expectations, and as the year proceeded they set their mark higher, until this handsome result was reached. The Ladies' Missionary Association, which meets monthly, had raised £7 2s. 6d. The collections and boxes brought up the income on Saturday night to over £33. On Sunday the annual sermons were preached throughout the circuit, the preachers being the Revs. N. Boocock, A. E. Burton, W. Eccles, and Mr. R. Cowie (student). The collections brought the total sum to £40 15s. 7d., an increase of £13 over last year, and an increase of £24 over two years ago. We are grateful for the revival of missionary interest in the circuit, and the ladies and young people are determined that they will do still better next year.

## Newbury Circuit.

This circuit is healthy and prosperous. The 28th anniversary of our town church has just been held. The Rev. W. Mincher was the preacher. The proceeds were about £11. For the first time our church is represented in the Town Council. Mr. Turner—a passive resister—one of our circuit stewards, was returned at the recent elections, and has a seat on the education committee. Notwithstanding much distress and poverty in the villages our missionary contributions have increased. The circuit has suffered recently by the loss through death and removals of several members, but we are hopeful for a season of refreshing during the winter.

## Newport.

The anniversary of Lyne Road church was held on Sunday, November 26th, when sermons were preached by the Rev. G. H. Southall. In the afternoon the choir gave a selection of hymns, recitations, dialogues, and solos. The chair was taken by His Worship the Mayor of Newport. On Thursday, November 30th, a tea was given by Mrs. and the Misses Davies. Afterwards a Service of Song, entitled 'Fruitful Seed,' was rendered by the Station Street church choir.

## Nottingham Fourth.

A successful ten days' mission has been conducted by Mr. Frank Weaver. This is Mr. Weaver's second visit to Mayfield Grove, and the second visit has been a greater success than the first. Night after night considerable numbers attended the services. The Sunday congregations were large, and the results have been most encouraging. One striking feature of the mission was the enthusiastic way in which our young people devoted themselves to the work. Mr. Weaver possesses special gifts as an evangelist. His racy style, his fund of humour, and his profound earnestness all contribute to success. Then, he possesses special singing capacity, and he makes the musical part of the services a prominent feature. The mission has led to the quickening of the church's life, and some fifty have been saved. On the closing day of the mission a public tea was held. At night Mr. Weaver delivered a lecture on 'Homes I have stayed in.' The chapel was well filled, the chair being occupied by Mr. Vinerd, one of our most acceptable local preachers. We are grateful for Mr. Weaver's visit.

## Over.

Under the auspices of the ladies' bazaar committee, a concert was given in the Council school room. There was an excellent audience. Great praise is due to Mr. Edwin Tyrrell, who organised the concert. Master Ben Corbett was also encored for his song, 'The Swallows.' Miss Cooper's recitations and pianoforte solo were highly appreciated.

## Penge and Bromley.

The Christian Endeavour Society at Penge has just held its anniversary. The preacher in the morning was Rev. E. J. T. Bagnall, of Forest Hill, and the subject 'Hidden Treasure.' In the afternoon a junior service was addressed by Miss E. Whittaker, a late member of the society, and Mr. Leslie Palmer. The evening preacher was the president, Rev. John T. Taylor, whose subject was 'A Great Temptation.' At the conclusion the monthly Sacramental service was held, to which over fifty stayed, and 12 new members were welcomed to the Church. On the Tuesday a rally was held, presided over by Mr. Adam Lee, J.P., the speakers being the Revs. R. Stewart Fleming, M.A. (Baptist), and J. Morrison (Thornton Heath). Several societies responded to the 'Roll Call,' conducted by Rev. J. T. Taylor. The report of the energetic secretary, Mr. F. J. Davis, shewed a year of useful work, and an increased membership, amounting to 40. At the quarterly meeting held at Bromley all round progress was reported. It was unanimously decided to engage a lay pastor for Bromley, and the hope expressed that the new church there would shortly commence building.

## Rhosymedre.

A most successful social evening was held on Wednesday. It was entirely arranged and carried out by the single members of the church and congregation, and was so well patronised that the chapel was densely crowded. Miss M. E. Harvey presided. The effort was towards paying for a new hot water heating apparatus, and realised £11 2s. 7d., which is highly gratifying. The married men made a similar effort previously and raised £5 10s. The quarterly meeting was largely attended, the circuit is healthy, and the financial statement enabled the meeting to pay £30 off the minister's house debt.

## Scotter.

The choir of the Ashby Church held their Festival on Wednesday, December 13th. A splendid tea was served in the school-room. Afterwards the Rev. W. H. Maxwell (resident minister) lectured on 'Songsters and their Songs,' and was ably assisted by the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Harold Kendall, supported by Mr. Earnest Kendall, who presided at the organ. The Festival was a success, the income being over £5.

## Seaham Harbour.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday last a most successful bazaar and Christmas tree was held in connection with the Temperance Church, in the Co-operative Hall. The object of the bazaar was to defray the expense of installing a pipe organ in the church. The organ will cost £300, towards which Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised £150. The bazaar was opened on the first day by Mrs. S. J. Ditchfield, of Dine House. T. Thomson, Esq., presided. On the second day by Mrs. T. Brough, of New Seaham. The total proceeds were slightly over £200. We have more than realised our expectation. Great credit is due to all, especially the ladies, for their loyal and generous services.

## Skipton.

A little more than a year ago we rented a cottage in the Broughton Road district of Skipton, and established a mission. Success has attended our efforts. We have now 90 scholars and 20 members. Best of all, the soul-saving continues. Compelled to provide increased accommodation, we decided to build an iron mission church, of which we have just laid foundation stones. After an address by the Rev. C. Higgins, stones were laid by the senior girls, senior boys, Mrs. Watkinson, Mr. Middleton, Mr. and Mrs. Langman, Mr. Tasker, Miss Langman, Mr. Heens, Mr. W. Stratton, and Miss L. Edmondson. The following is a list of donations:—Mr. Dawson, £2 2s.; Mr. J. Lakingill, £2 2s.; Mrs. Wildman, £1; Miss Gul, £1; a friend, £2; Mrs. Gott, £2; Mr. Charlesworth, £2 2s.; Mrs. Ayrton, £1; Mr. Aspin, £1; Coun. T. Fletcher, £3 3s.; Coun. W. Farey, £3; Mrs. Farey, £2; senior boys, £5; senior girls, £3; Mr. Langman, £1; Mr. Tasker, £2 10s.; Miss Langman, £1; Mr. Heens, £1; Mrs. Watkinson, £2 10s.; Mr. Middleton, £2; Mr. Stratton, £3; smaller sums and other items, £8 16s. 9d. Total £52 1s. 9d. A public meeting was held in the evening. Chairman Mr. Capstick, addresses being given by Revs. J. Dood, C. S. Douglas, and C. Higgins.

## Stepney Green Tabernacle.

On Monday, December 11th, a special effort was made in the form of a gold and silver tree. A generous response was made to the appeal. Durban Stokes, Esq. (Liberal candidate) presided, supported by Rev. G. Wood, H. P. Ellis, Messrs. T. Proud, T. N. Wilson, Henry Hatt, and J. E. Kemp. Mrs. J. F. Porter and Mrs. J. E. Kemp undertook the pleasing duty of gathering the fruit from the tree. The total value was a little over £44, and £50 is expected to be realised. With the majority of the donations sent was a cheering message for the church, which added greatly to the interest of the meeting. At the recent quarterly meeting an increase of members was reported, and a balance in the hands of the steward.

## St. Ives, Hunts.

On Thursday last the Young People's effort in behalf of the bazaar funds took the form of a 'Silver Tree' and concert and resulted in raising £5 17s. The quarterly meeting was held same day. Rev. J. Cooper presided and the business was quickly despatched, the financial statement showing a small adverse balance. Arrangements were made for aggressive work after Christmas.

## Walsall.

The annual sale of work was held on December 13th and 14th. Councillor C. C. Walker (Mayor of Walsall) opened the sale on the first day, and Mrs. J. F. Addison on the second. The stalls were prettily decorated and well laden with attractive and useful articles. The Rev. T. Whitehead, in calling upon the Mayor to open the sale, stated that this was the fourth sale of work that had been held during his term, and hoped this would be as successful as those of preceding years. He also announced the following donations:—begged by himself, £12 4s., the Mayor £2 2s., Mr. J. J. Brownhill £2 2s., Mrs. W. H. Lester, per Mrs. W. Brownhill £2 2s., Mrs. G. Miner £1 1s., Mrs. Addison £1 1s., Mr. Vincent £1 1s., and several smaller sums. The total proceeds amounted to £105.

SIR.—Although not a member of the Primitive Methodist Church, I take the *Leader* regularly, and have much enjoyed the reading of its various articles, and especially those by Professor Peake on the Reform of the Sunday Schools. As a Sunday school teacher for ten years I should be glad to see the articles reprinted and published in pamphlet form, so that every Sunday school teacher in the land would be able to procure a copy at a reasonable price. As teachers, we owe much to Professor Peake for his helpful suggestions.

Yours, etc., ALFRED E. STREKER.

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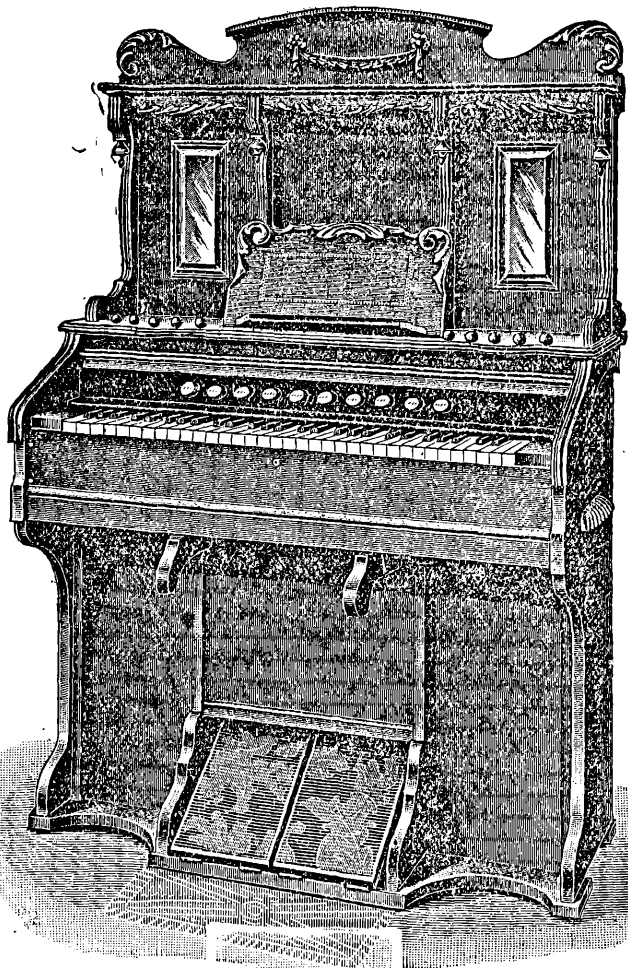
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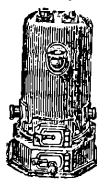
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