

A Year of War. By Arthur T. Guttery.

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A YEAR OF WAR.

By ARTHUR T. GUTTERY.

Nearly twelve months ago the declaration of war came upon us like "a bolt from the blue." We were busy with our religious activities, social dreams, industrial ambitions and political controversies. We flattered ourselves that we had outgrown the brutalities and infamies of the Age of Blood. We spoke of human solidarity, the federation of the world; we discredited the warnings of doleful prophets, and rejoiced that no Napoleon could trouble our homes. We had in power a Government pledged to peace. Europe had passed safely through so many crises that we did not think a squalid murder in Serbia would drive a Continent into madness and blood. We were almost servile in our Anglo-German friendship; we extolled German virtues, honoured German theology, when we did not understand it; we spoke of Krupp as a captain of industry and the Kaiser as a friend of peace; we had no army ready for continental adventure; our Navy guarded the seas for all, and our Free Trade policy opened our ports and markets to the world. We trusted the word and bond of civilized nations; we believed in unity of interest, and we deemed it impossible that a proud people should go mad with lust of dominion, and prepare for its insanity by long years of secret organisation. We were amazed when the enemy leaped upon us as from a thicket; we were simple, but we were sincere. It took us months to learn what war really involved. We talked about "business as usual"; we trusted in our traditional good fortune; we never reckoned on the infamy that would drown the unarmed at sea, the hate that would sack defenceless towns and poison our sons in the trenches, or the devilry that would curse Belgium for its innocence. We were taken by surprise; we were exposed to tragic perils; even now we have scarcely caught up our enemy in equipment. This unreadiness is viewed by some journalists as criminal; in reality it is our moral vindication. The world has watched us in these trying months; it knows we did not plot this war and plan this crime, and it is with a clean conscience that we face the brighter morrows of victory.

THE CALL OF THE CROSS.

When this horror broke loose on Europe we heard the call to sacrifice, and chose to suffer for freedom, honour, the rights of the weak, and the sanctities of civilization. As Germany swept upon Belgium, invaded Flanders, and tortured Northern France, we realised in some measure the frenzied hate that sought our ruin, but we have never faltered in our choice of the Cross. We might have held our peace, captured markets dismantled by strife, been the broker of the war, devised our plans in secret, and then terrorized the Continent at the moment of its exhaustion. Craft pointed this way, but we chose the nobler road of suffering, and we found the spirit of Cromwell and the chivalry of Gordon still alive in the common folk. A peaceful and industrial nation had to face a stupendous task. We had to call to birth a great army, recruited from dock and mine, school and shop, field, forge and factory, which, without prestige or tradition, should dash in pieces the proudest, mightiest professional militarism of history. We needed time, and it was refused us by a foe determined to hack his way to the coast, if not to Paris. We needed muni-

tions, and have had to build the factories that could produce sufficient for the monstrous needs of this campaign. We spend more than we earn, and have had to live upon our capital, yet we must supply our Allies with gold and credit. With patience and courage Britain has faced this prodigious task, and in one brief year she has astonished the world by the might of her arms, the industrial resource and economic vitality that fit her to lead the new civilization born of fire and blood. Lord Northcliffe complains that we have done so little; the marvel is that we have done so much without fever or exhaustion.

The record of a brief year will be the wonder and glory of our children. There have been mistakes and failures, for we had no previous experience of mad Germanism; we have been too easily elated and too soon depressed; we have heeded rumours that were foolish, listened to scandal-mongers, and made scape-goats of men who had served us with brilliant brain and fiery heart. There have been blunders in Berlin as well as Whitehall. German miscalculations have been monstrous and will prove fatal. His time-table has gone to pieces, and he dare not wait. His massed attacks and infernal engines have not secured the swift victories on which he reckoned. His political calculations with regard to his neighbours, our empire, neutral nations and America, have all proved wrong. His notion that "frightfulness" would terrorize Europe and duplicitous silence truth has covered him with contempt. He stands the outlaw of the world, cut off from the heart as well as the markets of the race. His plans are doomed to failure, because their motive has been cynical and immoral. Our mistakes have not been our ruin, because their motive has been sincere and righteous. The spiritual issues of this conflict grow clearer every week, and in their idealism lies the certainty of triumph. We have blundered, and shall blunder again; but the world knows that we do contend for honour between nations, the freedom of small nations, and the rescue of a Continent from military tyranny and brutal aggression. We resist Kaiserism to-day as we did Napoleonism one hundred years ago. Though the enemy should get to Moscow, though he should set up his puppets as kings on many thrones, and though we have to create fresh armies to smite his arrogance, Britain will carry its Cross, climb its Calvary and prevail, not because we can boast of supreme military genius, but because we seek a victory for which we can pray and we move towards a goal which is the city of God. In the rush of swift events we have not realised the amazing deliverances of the year. While we have been gathering our forces it is not superstition to believe that the good Lord has been our strength and our support. Faith becomes us more than vain-glory to-day.

THE VISION OF VICTORY.

In the darkest hours of the year we have had the vision of victory; we see it more truly now than a year ago. We can afford to acknowledge the amazing success in which Germany boasts. Long preparations have not been in vain, and a mighty organisation for war has not broken down. Germany has escaped invasion, and German armies move on foreign soil. Belgium and Flanders and Northern France are in German possession. Hungary has been saved from

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immediate peril; Galicia is recovered; Poland is overrun; Constantinople still stands; the Balkan States crouch in terror, and the Black Sea is locked against our ships. Our dreams of swift triumph have not come to pass, and we are pledged to an enterprise that may take long and weary years. Germany has suffered too, and its high authorities know that its fate is in the hands of Britain. German fleets have been swept off the open seas; it has failed in the true objective of both East and West. The zenith of power has been reached, the last reserves of men are being madly wasted. Germany is walled around by steel bars; they may have to bend here or there, but the pressure is constant and it is growing. The German race is expelled from decent fellowship; the infamies of the year will sink Germanism into utter ruin. We have the world to supply our needs. We call on the loyal manhood of the mightiest empire history has seen; our power grows from month to month; we are but at the beginning of our efforts, and, if we do not slacken, time is with us. Both morality and mathematics tell us that victory is sure if we are loyal to our high vision. There have been days when our vision has grown dim; our dreams have been postponed; some journalists and politicians have inflamed our fears, but the light shines on. In no conflict with oppression has Britain ever been vanquished. We shall not plunge into such a novel shame in a day when we struggle for righteousness and suffer for the redemption of Europe.

FAITH TESTED BY FIRE.

We may rejoice that tragic war has produced no outburst of desperate Atheism. A few years ago such a conflict would have been the text for lurid denunciations of our faith in God. We should have been covered with ribaldry and insult; but to-day agony moves the nation to reverence rather than scorn. The horrors of war have not shaken the faith of our sons in the firing line. They stand fast in the sincerities of religion; they pray in the trenches, and the rest camps echo with sacred song. Many a man who has escaped shot and shell attributes his deliverance to God.

At the same time, thoughtful men and women have suffered searching of heart and trial of mind. The foundations of trust are shaken, and it is hard to reconcile the tragedy of the year with our faith in the loving authority of God. We are forced to ask where is God in all this agony of tumult? How can we square the madness of war with the reality of Christian progress? To tell us that God is immanent in all that is only deepens the problem. To say that God overrules all things, and nothing can happen without His sanction, simply covers us with black confusion. We still hold our faith, even though it be with desperate grip. We believe that God does rule, but He has given to man a freedom and power to resist Him, so that goodness, when triumphant, may be a choice and not a coercion. That power for evil has broken loose to-day; its perverted philosophy, swollen pride and degraded ethics deluge Europe in blood. It is limited in its malignant might, for it provokes a moral resistance, embodied in our sons. Because it is anti-social it is doomed, while the power of God remains one and supreme; a divine fascination that gathers to it all the energies of conscience. In that moral attraction lies God's vindication, and the blessed victory that shall assure our faith. We believe that God had some better thing for us. It may be that He could have prevented this war as He could have forbidden Calvary and the Cross; but through the sacrament of pain has come our cleansing and our peace.

We have learned much from the shock and terror of the year, but our pride in Britain, our assurance of the morrows, and our faith in God stand sure. We dare not prophesy that war will be over and victory won a year from now, but we are confident that Britain will be resolute, our sons valiant, and our women devoted. The redemption of civilisation will be more assured than it is to-day. Forward with stout hearts, though we may have to climb the hills of flame and wade through seas of tears and blood!

Presents for the Troops.

SIR,—I was reading with interest the article in your recent issue "With the Expeditionary Force," by Rev. G. Kendall, when I was struck with amazement on reading of boxes of "nice" cigarettes, "a large box of tobacco," and "being cheered with another box." I wish to know if these sentiments are consonant with Primitive Methodism or not? In case I hear nothing, I shall be obliged to discontinue taking the *Leader* in, as I cannot on principle take a Christian periodical in which encourages smoking. Other Notts subscribers have drawn my attention to similar extracts in the *Leader*. I am in grave doubt, for I feel I cannot be a member of a Church whose ministry openly advocates this vile and weak habit. Personally, I think it only just to some readers at least that a note be written in next week's issue apologising for apparently going over to the enemy's side. It makes one wonder about the Anti-Cigarette League.—Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STOCKEN.
Ealing-avenue, Old Basford, Nottingham.

APPEAL TO EVERY SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

For our Soldiers Brave!

By Rev. W. Spedding.

More than 30,000 young Primitive Methodists have joined the colours in response to their country's call. They have gone from our Sunday-schools and churches all over the land. These young men are not lovers of war as war. They have been trained differently. Only their country's extreme peril and their strong sense of right and justice have provoked their brave and noble action, even to the sacrifice of life itself. Many of them have already suffered wounds and death on the battlefield. They have endured the horrors and agonies of the trenches, while thousands of them are encamped in various parts of the country waiting the further call of duty. Brought up amid the tender influences of Christian homes, and taught the sacred principles of religion and morality in sympathetic and friendly environment of Sunday-school and church, their new conditions of life are full of trial and peril. Temptations lie thickly around their path in both trench and camp. There is much to threaten their faith and virtue and religion, and great is their need of kindly sympathy and assistance. We are grateful for the testimony that so many are proving true to their early Christian training and habits, and constantly giving proof of their Christian soldiery. We are proud of our "lads," as we love to call them; and particularly of their Christian deportment and ministry to others of their comrades. They will do credit to home and Church. But this we must help them to do, and in every way possible. It is gratifying that the Church has been able to do so much for them.

The work of our Army Board cannot be too highly praised! In a comparatively short time an effective organisation to meet the moral and spiritual needs of our soldiers has been built up. With other Churches, we have taken our place in this pressing Christian task. Eleven full-time chaplains have been appointed, whose operations cover a very wide field. Some of these are labouring right up in the firing line, others are in hospitals at the base, and others are under orders for immediate foreign service. Of the excellent work which they are doing we get some idea from the thrilling sketches which week by week we get in the *Leader*. We have upwards of one hundred officiating ministers, who are working in connection with different camps all over the country. They are regularly ministering to thousands of our young fellows, and there are many evidences that their labour of love is greatly appreciated by the men in camp. We have built eight huts in different military centres for religious service and the use of the soldiers. These huts are a great boon to the men, and the attempts to compass the spiritual good of the young soldiers has met with obvious and abundant success. While social necessities are catered for, the spiritual purpose is always kept supreme, and it is encouraging to hear now and again of cases of conversion. The military authorities themselves have testified to the valuable work being done. There can be no doubt that a splendid Christian work has been done, is being done, and remains to be done in these great military centres.

More huts are needed; in fact, their speedy erection is imperative, but, unfortunately, funds are getting exhausted. Every section of the Church has done generously, and immediate help is needed. Is it not possible for the Sunday-schools to give some assistance? The great majority of these young men have gone from the Sunday-school, where they were teachers or scholars. We believe that the schools, if given the opportunity, will generously respond. That opportunity is to be afforded at once, and an appeal has been sent to every Sunday-school asking for a school collection, to average one penny per scholar, and to be made not later than October 17th.

We should like to be able to erect at least one "Sunday-school" hut for this great and glorious work. This can be easily done, and the scholars would be glad to contribute their mite, and have a share in a task so necessary and good on behalf of our brave soldiers. How it would gladden and encourage the hearts of these young soldiers to know that their old Sunday-school comrades had not forgotten them, but were doing what they could to make the way as easy as possible for them! We cannot all go to the front and fight our country's battles, but there is a work that everybody can do—we can care for those and help those who do go. In this appeal there is a privilege and obligation for every school! Where is the Sunday-school that has not given some of its members to this great national conflict and this struggle for world-wide righteousness? We are bound to these gallant young men by ties of Christian patriotism and love. Their cause is ours, and every Sunday-school teacher has a place in it, and every Sunday-school boy and girl should be made to realise his or her share therein. The appeal is a challenge, not merely to our generosity and patriotism, but to our Christian love and loyalty. That every school will be equal to the appeal and help on this good work on behalf of our brave Primitive Methodist comrades I feel confident.

Get the printed appeal from the minister!
Read it to your teachers' meeting!
Decide upon a convenient Sunday for the collection!
Explain it to the scholars and announce the date at least a week in advance!
Do it as early as convenient, and don't delay!

Send at once to Rev. W. SPEDDING, 18, Kensington-terrace, Leeds.

MISSIONARY NOTES AND NEWS.

The defeat of the German forces in Africa has brought great relief to our missionaries. Some of them a few months ago were in the danger zone, and the gravity of the situation was hardly realised by us. Rev. F. W. Dodds, writing in March, said: "Only this week I have been on a long journey of 122 miles, during which I slept within four miles of a town then undergoing assault by British native troops. In one town on the Bende Circuit, only eight miles away, the Christians have been driven from their homes, and the pagans are threatening to kill them if they return." A general feeling of restlessness among the natives then obtained, but it is hoped, with the end of the war in that region, that that feeling has been allayed, and that things will now take their normal course.

The Mohammedan peril increases in West Africa, and this gives urgency to the plea of our agents there for more missionaries. For thirteen centuries Islam has had a marvellous record, and its adherents to-day are supposed to number 200,000,000. Because of the elements of truth which this religion enshrines, some Christians are complacent in view of its progress, but all who have had experience of its influence and power recognise it as the most formidable enemy of Christianity. In Southern Nigeria the people have shown a remarkable readiness to respond to the call of Christ, and open doors present themselves all around our stations. Those on the spot are eager to enter, and to enter now. They know that the difficulties in dealing with the native in his present condition are small as compared with what they will be when Islam has once cast its spell over him. Hence the importance of being first in the field. Unquestionably the emissaries of the Mohammedan faith are making a bold and determined effort for the conquest of the land.

The financial problem is ever with us. It fetters us at every point, and compels us to hesitate about increasing our agents even in Southern Nigeria, where the call is so clamant. To meet obligations already accepted will require a largely increased revenue. The removal of the Girls' Institute from Jamestown will be a costly undertaking. The position was the best possible at the time it was selected, but great developments have taken place since then. The work was then an experiment, but to-day its success is its ample vindication. With the experience now gained the future is bright with promise. It is a great advantage to have had Miss Richardson at home while the building project has been under consideration. Her advice has been invaluable, and she will return to Africa with the unbounded confidence of the members of the Missionary Committee.

During their furlough Miss Richardson, Revs. C. Findlay and R. Cawthorn have been busily engaged in deputation work, and they now return to West Africa. Miss Richardson, of course, goes back to the Girls' Institute, and the brethren go to spheres of labour with which they are quite familiar. Mrs. Findlay also knows the ground, but Mrs. Cawthorn enters upon quite a new kind of life. She is the daughter of Rev. James Pickett, and that fact will increase the interest with which her future will be watched by troops of friends. Rev. A. H. Richardson left Hartley College two years ago, and was appointed to the South-East London Mission. There he found great favour with the people, and Rev. J. Johnson speaks in the highest terms of his work. He has had the advantage of the training which Livingstone College affords. At that Institution he was recognised as a "lad of parts," and made editor of its magazine. He is strong in body, vigorous in mind, and enthusiastic in his work. It will be a surprise to his friends if he does not, in the future, rank as one of our leading missionaries.

The Missionary Committee, at its meeting on Thursday last, decided to appeal for retiring collections in the interests of our army work. A circular was at once issued, and we have heard of a number of places at which offerings were taken on Sunday last. It is hoped that no church will miss this opportunity of rendering assistance. Our soldier lads deserve the best we can do for them. They knew the risks when they enlisted, but to the number of 30,000 they responded to their country's call! The agency, for which the appeal is made means social benefits in the camps, but, more important even than that, it gives help in the hour of temptation, and has already been the means of leading many a lad into the way of life. The fund is heavily overdrawn. Now is the time to replenish it. The work commends itself wherever it is known. The people will give if the opportunity is offered, and no local interest will suffer.

One of the most successful of our mission centres in London is at Driffild-road, North Bow. More than thirty years ago it was the scene of the late Rev. J. F. Porter's strenuous labours. Then the cause flourished greatly, but later it declined, and a few years ago was in a precarious condition. It then came under the supervision of Rev. T. Jackson, with Mr. J. Scarlett as pastor. Improvement took place at once, and when Mr. Scarlett removed he left a prosperous church. Twelve months ago Mr. H. Parrott was appointed, and further gratifying progress has been made. A finer lot of young people it would be difficult to find. An official recently said, "Whatever is on they are here. They come as readily to a prayer-meeting as to a social." Mr. Parrott is taking a leading place in the social and religious activities of the district, and our Church is fortunate in having such a representative.

J. M.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The War's Progress.

Judging from Sir John French's latest report as to the Western section, there is but little advance on either side to chronicle, though artillery bombardment has been heavy on both sides, and there must have been considerable losses. Sir John, however, reports some gains by the mining and destruction of the enemy's trenches. Our position is said to be impregnable, and it is evident that much the same can be said of the enemy's position. The process of attrition obviously is all in our favour. Little news reaches us as to the state of affairs in the Dardanelles, but, such as it is, it is distinctly good. The most violent struggle is evidently in the eastern area, and the battles for Warsaw are developing into what is said to be the sternest conflicts of the whole war. The Germans and Austrians are realising how colossal is this phase of the strife, and are pouring in all available forces, though the latest indications are that they are being resolutely and successfully repulsed.

Russia's Dogged Defence.

It has been well known that the situation in the Eastern area of the war for some weeks has been critical, and the fate of Warsaw is still in the balance; but whatever happens, the fine strategy and the plucky defence of the Russians have won the highest admiration. The great trouble has been the shortage of munitions, a trouble which we may hope is being overcome. It is entirely agreed that, as a brave and persistent fighting unit, the Russian is hard to beat, and if it were not that he is overborne by the superior weight of his enemy's munitions, the great Polish capital would have been in but little danger. If his Allies, even at this moment, are able to keep him supplied, he can be trusted to make the most effective use of the supplies he so much needs, and the rather ominous prospect may quickly brighten. At the moment, the tremendous forces arrayed against him are being effectively held up and are mainly marking time. Immediately in front of Warsaw the Russian position is extremely strong.

More War Taxes.

The "man who is left behind" because of military disability or incapacity is likely to have a good deal to do in connection with the war, and it will be well for him to stand ready to "pay up and look cheerful," for new and heavier taxes loom in the distance. Already a further demand for money, in the shape of a vote of credit for £150,000,000, has been made. The Prime Minister, in making it, pointed out that the gross amount voted during the last twelve months is not less than 1,012 million pounds, and with a war expenditure of £3,000,000 per day, the Government is likely to come for more. It must be a strange experience for a Premier to receive a deputation to urge new and increased taxation, yet that is what happened on Thursday last. Mr. Asquith indicated the almost certainty that income tax will be charged on smaller incomes than heretofore. Certainly thrift on the part of all sections of the community is being urged in most unusual ways. Still, nobody should rest content with what he is at present doing for his country. We may not be able to fight, but we can provide the sinews of war, and we ought.

Significant Colonial Gains.

It is, of course, altogether too soon to be boasting of our gains in this terrible war, but it was, after all, a remarkable story which Mr. Bonar Law, the new Colonial Secretary, had to tell to the House of Commons on Wednesday of last week. Now that the full extent of General Botha's triumph is beginning to be known it is almost impossible to exaggerate the enormity of its importance. Togoland, also on the West Coast of Africa, a territory as large as Ireland, was first of all subdued, and, what it was of incalculable importance to silence, an immense wireless station in direct communication with Berlin, and costing a quarter of a million, was won and annexed. Then, in the German Cameroons, while complete possession of the colony had not been gained, victory after victory had been achieved with our Nigerian Protectorate as the base of operations. In East Africa and Nyassaland the situation is full of confidence and satisfaction. In these conflicts the native troops, under our British officers, have not only given proof of their valour but of their high regard for the land to whom they owe allegiance. Our British notions of the type of treatment which native peoples should receive have not only made their impression on the natives themselves, but are now serving us in good stead.

The Sturdy American Note.

The third, and the strongest, American Note in reply to the evasions and subtleties of Germany has now been published, and, if it is not an ultimatum, it is as near to one as can possibly be imagined. And yet it is only what might have been expected from President Wilson, though its plain and pungent phrases will be most unpalatable to the arrogant Kaiserism of the class to whom it is addressed. It declared that the German Note is "most unsatisfactory," and once more emphatically condemns "the grave and unjustifiable violation of the rights of American citizens by German naval commanders." It again demands that Germany shall entirely disavow what it calls the "illegal and wanton act" of the sinking of the "Lusitania," and affirms again its requirement of reparation for the loss of precious American lives. Germany is very plainly informed that any repetition of the attacks on American lives and American shipping will be regarded as "deliberately unfriendly." This threat of reprisals, couched as it is in diplomatic language, must bring matters to an issue, and the advisers of the crazy Kaiser may live to rue the day of their folly.

The South Wales Coal Strike.

Now that the brief but bitter struggle between the coalowners and coal-getters of the South Wales valleys is happily over, everybody will be glad to forget some phases

of it, and for them, as Mr. Lloyd George advised, to be buried in the deepest pit of the area. The only party which seems to emerge with much credit, save the Government's envoys, is the Miners' Executive, whose advice was so ruthlessly flouted. Happily, the Government took strong, as well as serious, views of the situation, and adopted the somewhat unusual course of dispatching three of its Cabinet Ministers to the area affected, and instructed them to negotiate for a settlement on the spot. Probably the hot-heads were seeing how stupid they were beginning to look, and they caved in, and after the exercise of Mr. Lloyd George's exceptional persuasive powers, settlement was reached. It is hoped, however, that the coal-owners will learn the lesson and will be content to pocket only a fair proportion of the profits which, either natural or unnatural, increases in selling prices may make possible. The man who risks his life should have an equitable share in the gains.

The King and the Workmen.

Our King has once more shown his strong common sense in paying visits to some of the great munition centres, and heartening the workers whose toil is but little less important than the activities in the stricken field. His ready identification with the great toiling throngs has often won admiration, and few things will more swiftly evoke their homage and win their esteem and loyalty than the unconventional and unostentatious fellowship he had with them in some of the munition factories of Birmingham last Friday. It will be a new England which those who survive the great struggle will see when the day of darkness has passed, and the distance, and especially the cleavage, between classes will never be quite the same again. It is in every way to the good that we are favoured in having a monarch who so easily and so heartily shows wherein true nobility lies.

The Congregational Union.

It is gratifying to learn that the autumnal meetings of the Congregational Union of England and Wales are to be duly held, and that the disposition to a little hastily suspended these great religious assemblies is passing away. The meetings are to be held in Leeds, where difficulties in the matter of hospitality will be very few. Of course, the war will dominate the construction of the programme, as was the case with the National Free Church Council at its meetings in Manchester. The topics are such as "The Soldiers in Training," "The Sailors on the Sea and the Soldiers at the Front," "The Government," "The Church," "The New Heaven and the New Earth," and "The Notes in the Evangel Which Call for Emphasis in View of the Special Circumstances of the Time," and similar subjects. Such a programme has at least the virtue of timeliness, and the nation, as well as the churches, will be the richer for the discussions which will inevitably arise.

Sunday School Decline.

The troubling subject of retrogression in our great Sunday-school Department has once more been well to the fore in both the Wesleyan Methodist Conference and the Conference of the United Methodists, and in both instances further decreases have had to be deplored. In the case of the Wesleyan Methodists a decrease of scholars for the year of 16,846 was reported, and it was also pointed out that, since 1905, there had been a loss of 90,618. This represents a most serious situation. It is no comfort to add that this has been characteristic of all the Churches,

in varying degree. It is undeniable that child life is gaining, for good or for ill, a much larger freedom than formerly, and how far a diminution of parental control explains this regrettable and almost disastrous decline in Sunday-school scholars is a moot point. The churches are surely wise in giving as much attention to this vital question as to the evangelisation of the lapsed.

WITH A MOBILE COLUMN.

By George Standing, C.F.

I joined the Mobile Column on the day it left the trenches. The day following was Sunday, and there had been no opportunity to arrange my services, so I joined the Church of England service for the day. The men were tired after their weeks of trench warfare, but they entered heartily into the singing and listened eagerly to the short addresses. The Anglican chaplain introduced me and gave a hearty welcome. The next day we trekked. After hours of riding we found a billet. It was a field near a farmhouse. We carry no tents, so the first night was spent on stretchers under the open sky. The next night we commandeered an outhouse, but were driven out after two nights by rats, mice, and smaller creatures. Then I remembered that I had travelled in Chipping Norton Circuit, where the minister (in my time) slept out. My luck was in. A dear old French lady took me in, after a very serious consultation with her husband. There I stayed happily for a few weeks. Nothing was too good for me. Before Sunday my work opened out. Attached to a Brigade, I was ordered to work a Division composed of thirteen units. The old training held, and I set out to make a plan. Only No. 1 to plan, but each place to have a service at a convenient hour. If there could be a Sunday of forty-eight hours it would suit me. By putting two and three units together three services were arranged for the morning, one (united) for the afternoon and two voluntary services for the evening. The first service was held in an orchard. There were just twenty men. From the first hymn we were in the Spirit, and when I suggested (in semi-apology for a phrase) that I was a Methodist, the faces of the men beamed. The next service was very different, there being sixty serious, sober Scotsmen, all Presbyterians. They did not know my hymns, and when we finally agreed on common and long metres they sang slowly and deliberately. I preached like a Moderator in embryo. That service has been the great service of the day every Sunday since. It never fails in any way. When I think of the work that meeting of Scotsmen is my joy. The other services were held in schoolrooms in central villages. The village priests have been splendid, eager to help us, and with no trace of bigotry.

None of my meetings are large. Last Sunday I met three men in a small room in a remote village. For the first time since the war began these men were able to attend a Free Church service. One Presbyterian, one Wesleyan, one Methodist. There has been no Free Church chaplain in the Brigade. The meeting became a class meeting—even the Presbyterian told his experience. I had an experience to relate. For several days I had been reading the Hartley Lecture, and all that came of it was this: "My heart is at the secret source of every living thing." For half an hour four of us sat "in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Then they shouldered their rifles and marched off, and I mounted my bike and rode home in ecstasy. Again and again in this scattered parish of mine I think of John Wesley's words: "Wherever there are two or three under a hedge, enter in, preach the Word." However, "there is nothing to report." We have no big services, no crowds, but a few men who meet once a week to clap hands and pray together, to tell of God's care, and then farewell to meet again next Sunday in a quiet field or room, or in a field hospital, certainly at last in the Father's house. Just that; but I am glad I am here.

From England week by week come letters. Friends say: "We pray for you, especially on Sundays." I remember, and most of all I think of a prayer-meeting in a little Hampshire village chapel where they pray in the Sunday evening prayer-meeting for the boys who have gone out from the school—Hubert in the submarine, Archie in the Engineers (in the firing line since August), and George preaching and praying. I remember the old circuits, Chipping Norton, Bournemouth and Reading, where they pray; and, remembering, the glory breaks in on us. For we all tell stories of people praying. How nearer God seems—nay, how near God is! "Heaven opened to a soul while yet on earth; earth all around a soul while seeing heaven."

Each Monday for the last three weeks I have met Joseph Firth. Does anyone in England know what he has done and what he is doing in the 28th Division? I have been reading his story in the *Leader*. There is nothing there that suggests the tremendous toil of that winter campaign. For the greater part of the time he has cared for fourteen units, not only on Sundays, but by day and night. He has followed the men in the trenches night after night. When the officers protested he begged to be allowed to go where danger was most feared. He has spent nights with the M.O. in dressing stations, helping men physically and spiritually. The Honours List has no mention of Joseph Firth. That is because the strong recommendation of his Colonel got into the wrong channel, and at the moment we had no senior chaplain for the United Board. I have seen Firth and talked with him, and when I leave him I feel that nothing can equal the joy of a man who has been able to do such service. He is still in the hottest of the fight. When all the story is told, the infantry soldier and the infantry chaplain will come to their own.

Once more I say to all my friends in England: "Brethren, pray for us."

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THE SECOND DIARY OF A SKY PILOT.

March 16th.—The life of a town like this is very uneventful. Nothing has happened this week, except that a treacle cask burst when it was rolled off a trolley, to the regret of the grocer and the joy of the youngsters, who for once were full of sweetness. Every child you met had a treacle face and a general appearance of stickiness.

It must puzzle the newspaper editor to fill up his columns, even when you allow for conundrums, recipes for making pies no one ever does make, and puddings which no one would eat if they were made, and a dissertation on the glories of emigration inserted by an agent of the shipping company. We have two papers, which have their insides supplied from London, and they mainly seem to exist to contradict each other. One represents Conservative principles and social snobbery, the other Radical aspirations and social anarchy. If the "Sentinel" reports a Conservative meeting, it was a great and influential gathering; if the "Courier," it states that only a mere handful attended. If the "Courier" reports a Liberal speaker, he always delivered an epoch-making speech—we have had eleven epochs in four months, and we are expecting another next week, when an M.P. is coming to address us. If the "Sentinel" reports the same speech, it is childish drivel and not worth answering. The reporter of the latter paper is a red-haired youth of the ripe age of nineteen, whose mother—a virago—still spans him when he does not please her; and the reporter of the "Courier" is always either slightly drunk, middling drunk, dead drunk, or wanting to be. A week in a newspaper office would make one doubt the wisdom of the "Times" or the truthfulness of the "Daily Mail."

March 13th.—Made the circuit plan—worried—cross at dinner because the mutton was not cooked. Wife said it was the oven. I said that bad workmen always blamed their tools, intending to be humorously sarcastic. She does not understand humorous sarcasm, and for five minutes I sat and listened to sarcasm without humour. Then I retired—in graceful silence. She went off to see her mother in the afternoon. My ear burned about four o'clock. Took tea alone. Read A. J. Balfour's "Bases of Philosophical Doubt." It is a clever book, but I don't agree with him. I outlined a speech to show where he is wrong. Walked five miles, preached to three, came home. Wife gone to bed—headache. Weather stormy.

March 18th.—The best to be found in Methodism is not in its conferences and public gatherings but in its cottage homes. We have seen rural godliness, and are by no means inclined to indulge in cheap sneers at it. Simple enough it was, uneducated perhaps, but learned in the deep things of God. In the homes where the Bible was the best read book and the hymn book the only poetry, what saintly characters have we not found. I hear that John Brown is dead, and with him has passed an undiscovered genius. He was a most ingenious man. When the circuit clock would not go in spite of repeated efforts of Smithson, the watchmaker, he succeeded by the simple process of boiling the inside in a saucepan. When the pulpit bottom gave way under the vigorous stamping of a local preacher, he repaired it, as he did also the town fire engine. He doctored horses given up by the vet; he cured children of whooping-cough, and put rings into the noses of inquisitive pigs who "rooted up" the paving stones to see what was underneath. He could bind books, cobble boots, repair watches, and he was a clever man, yet always as poor as Job's turkey.

March 19th.—I called to-day to see Blimmer, the ship-builder, whose attendance at public worship has been for sometime past anything but exemplary for an official. When he was a plain shipwright he attended three times a day, and remained at the Sunday night prayer meeting, now he comes occasionally once a day. He used to preach three or four times a quarter, but for some time past now he has asked for no appointments. I was determined to have a straight talk with him, and ventured to point out that worldly prosperity is dearly purchased at the loss of spiritual life. He replied that his interest was as great as ever in the church, but on Sunday mornings he really did not feel equal to rising so early, and as for the evening, the doctor had forbidden him to be out at nights on account of his predisposition to bronchial asthma. To-night there was a dense fog, but at a great political meeting Blimmer was on the platform smiling and cheering as though he had never heard of such a thing as bronchial asthma in all his life. Truly human nature is a queer thing.

Weather, fickle.

March 20th.—My neighbour Swan, the Congregational minister, is in great trouble about his eldest lad, who has been caught taking money out of his employer's desk.

"It is a strange thing the children of so many ministers go wrong," said Dickson to me, when discussing this incident. "I cannot understand it."

"Do they?" I asked. "I was not aware of the fact."

"Oh! everybody knows it is so," he replied. "I have known a great number myself."

"Have you?" I answered. "Who were they?"

"Well," he said, "there was Andrew Hesketh. He got into trouble and had to flee the country."

"Yes," I answered, "poor Hesketh, I knew his case. He was more sinned against than sinning. Go on."

"Well, there was Mimsey's daughter. She ran away from home and got married."

"That was so," I answered. "If I remember right her father married again, and she could not get on with her stepmother. But there was nothing criminal in what she did."

"No," he reluctantly admitted. "Now there is Harry Swan."

"Finished?" I said. "Well, you have probably known a thousand ministers in your life. It does not seem a very formidable list after all. You are a farmer. I don't know a great number of farmers 'tis true, but within a radius of five miles there are, roughly speaking, about a hundred

farmers. Suppose we take the hundred and make comparisons. Gregson's lad committed suicide to escape imprisonment. Jones, of Brierfall, had three daughters; two of them went astray. Fellow's son, of Crupworth, went to Oxford and was sent down for something or other. Gillson's lad is a vagabond. Thorpson, of One Ash, has two sons, both blackguards.

"These are only a few cases. I don't say that ministers' children are better than others, but they are certainly no worse. But the light that beats on the manse is far more intense than that which shines on the farm or ordinary homestead."

"I never thought of that," he replied.

"Look yonder," I said, pointing to the hillside. "There are, say, two hundred sheep grazing. Which of them all is most conspicuous?"

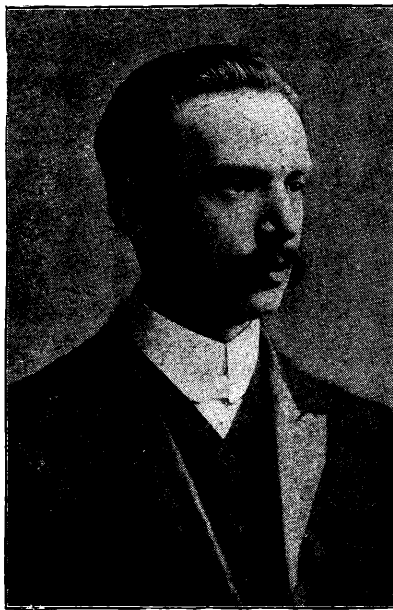
"Oh! that solitary black one by the rock," he answered. "Exactly! The black sheep always catches the eye; and the more so because he is surrounded by white ones."

I thought I had cured him, but only to-day I heard him repeating the same statement again. He wants to believe it is true, and so he says it as if it were true.

THE NEW ENDEAVOUR SECRETARY.

By Rev. James S. Nightingale.

The Reading Conference could not have made a more appropriate choice for the post of Christian Endeavour Secretary than its selection of George Fawcett, and will



Rev. George Fawcett.

find such confidence has not been misplaced. As successor to myself in this office in the Sunderland and Newcastle District, opportunity has been given of seeing my friend at work, and of judging his capabilities. And the observer will be impressed at once with the thought that here is a man who brings to all his work the spirit of a man of vision. Mr. Fawcett is an idealist in whose soul is the perfect picture of what he wishes to realise, and ever an improvement and advance, if possible, upon what any previous secretary has done. He is always a worker with a definite programme, who does not believe in beating the air or waiting for something to turn up, but knows what he wants, and will frankly and clearly set forth the goal he aims at in service. And when the programme is taken up, here is the man of action to whom there are no Alps, who does not know when he is beaten; alive, alert, virile himself, and with the happy art of securing the co-operation of others. There is no circuit in which he has travelled but will gratefully testify to the accuracy of that statement. His abounding activity perhaps in the past has been his danger, and in days to come, amid the claims of his office, he will need to restrain himself and put the brake on, under the spell of impulses which would put too great a tax upon his energies. The new Endeavour Secretary is a man of courage and holy audacity, not daunted by, but revelling in difficult situations; just the sort of man to have with you tiger hunting, a man who will see things through. The stamp of healthy originality is on all his work. He has a profound reverence for the past, but he will not copy others except it be workable for the future. So far as the claims of his own circuit will permit, he will keep the Young People's Movement out of ruts and free from senility and the superficial.

Mr. Fawcett is not the slave of one idea in his work, and could never be bound by a method. If one fails he will be ready with another, and if that method does not answer he will successfully meet the situation with something else in his cheerful and dogged determination. If he has an enemy, which we doubt, such would readily admit that he is a born organiser in Christian effort. He will make his plans with every detail thought out, and when the day of effort arrives everything will be splen-

didly marshalled, men and machinery, nothing out of place, all working without friction or disorder. And his powers of advocacy are of no mean order. He is fresh, manly, winning, intelligent and passionate. With grace and grit, tact and courtesy, and the addition of humour that is never vulgar or inane, with force of persuasion and directness of appeal, he has a message which cannot fail to draw forth the best response there is in young life. He is just a young man's man, and comes to this office young, but not too young. His very maturity has increased his juvenility in the sense of deepening his sympathies with the needs and aspirations of the rising generation in Primitive Methodism.

Mr. Fawcett has a lofty conception of the Church, her place and mission in the world, and her future as a channel of grace and blessing to men. And as an ardent Primitive Methodist fully in sympathy with the ideals of our own Zion, and sure of the position she still will take amongst the people, and true to the distinctive evangelical note which has given our own Church her place of power and influence in this land, as Secretary of the Christian Endeavour organisation, he will strive to deepen and make the moral and spiritual life of the movement more virile, amid the tendencies that make for flabbiness, and the poverty of a religion which begins and ends in its own meeting, and drifts down to a dangerous and ignorant emotion or a petrified formality. As secretary our friend will have a great opportunity. He is following brethren in the office who have made much possible in these later days, in the wise counsel and unstinted service they have rendered. Critical and trying times no doubt lie ahead for this movement, as for every organisation for the public good. But it is something to know that in the new leader we have a man who is a real trier, with an enthusiastic and optimistic devotion to the great cause of endeavour. But he will need the hearty co-operation of all lovers of young people. The work is great, the man is worthy, and, with united effort, the banner of this organisation can be carried to still greater triumphs. This sketch is neither a biography nor an obituary. We have little sympathy with post-mortem eulogies, and the place of a man's birth is not the all important. But these words have been penned with a desire to more fully introduce Mr. Fawcett to his constituents, to wish him "Bon voyage" as he sets out, and to bid him be of good cheer in all the arduous duties which lie before him, but which with a stout heart, the good wishes and prayers of many, and the blessing of his great Lord, we are sure will be accomplished.

WORK AMONG THE TROOPS.

An Incident at Haltwhistle.

By Rev. John E. Leuty.

It's a long way—from the hub of the Empire to Haltwhistle, and at the commencement of this colossal struggle it was perhaps a little difficult to realise its inwardness; but as the days rolled by we were made to feel how keenly it affected us. Our lads began to go away, and it was found that large numbers of the Northumberland Fusiliers had passed through our Sunday-school, and others were more or less associated with us. The letters began to come from the front, and the local papers reported names of "men killed in action" and "died of wounds," until the whole district felt the shadow of the cloud. As the sacrifices our lads were making were clearly seen, the churches nobly responded to the occasion, and provided khaki Bibles and pocket-books, socks, shirts and numerous comforts, and contributed liberally to the local funds to assist dependents, besides making collections for our Connexional Army Fund. Every home one visited seemed occupied with some scheme of help, but we have no means of tabulating the amount that has gone forth to brighten the lives of our men. The coming of the 160th (Weirsides) Brigade, R.F.A., numbering 1,000 officers and men, opened a new opportunity for our people, and notwithstanding all they had done and were doing, it was seized with alacrity. The Haltwhistle Women's Guild organised free suppers on Sunday evenings for all who attended our services, and brightened the hour with suitable songs and music. The men give unqualified praise to the Primitives for their hospitality, both in the church and in many homes. The writer was appointed "officiating clergyman" to the Brigade, and soon found numbers of men who were connected with our churches on the Weirsides. They have been most regular in their attendance at our services, and in some cases taken an active part therein. Endeavourers have been to the fore, and have proved the value of this movement in fostering high character and steadfast purpose.

The recent visit of Mr. Tom Holland and his family, was greatly enjoyed by the men of the camp, and the church was packed to its utmost capacity on the Sunday night. Many of them had heard Mr. Holland during past years in the East-coast towns and colliery villages, and great was their delight when it became known he was coming for four days. The scenes will not easily be forgotten. But the greatest spiritual triumph was on our camp-meeting day, first at Oanwood (a mile from the camp) and then at Haltwhistle. There came to the Oanwood camp-meeting a man from an East-coast town, a town that suffered heavily from a German raid, who was well-connected religiously, and whose downfall was drink. A sea-going engineer, earning £18 per month, alert, intelligent and handsome, he had joined the Army. "I have left behind," he told the writer, "the best wife in the world and five bonny little kiddies." The Spirit of God laid hold of him at the Oanwood camp-meeting, and with kindly tact he was persuaded to go with four other soldiers to tea at the house of one of our members. Here he was regaled with old-time hymns, which thoroughly broke him down. "I have three brothers, local preachers,"

he said, "and I am the black sheep of the family." For a fortnight after this he carried a heavy burden, but at the Haltwhistle camp-meeting it was removed.

We had with us Mr. W. M. Patterson, of Monkseaton, and Mr. James Haswell, of Langley Park, both well-tried men for this special work. All day our Scotch friend hung about us; he had obtained leave of absence from the camp, and the Word went home. At the evening service in the church he surrendered, after a terrific struggle. Many conversions have been witnessed in our church, but never one more dramatic. The sequel: Supper was finished in the schoolroom, so took Mr. Mac home. A little late in getting back to camp; reported and taken before his superior officer. "Well, Mac—," said the officer, "what have you to say?" No reply from Mac— "Come, now, you are fast enough with your tongue at other times, why can't you speak?" "Well, Sir, I must speak the truth now, whether you believe me or not," says Mac—. "I went to the P.M. chapel in Haltwhistle last night, and decided to lead a better life." "Do you mean that?" said the officer. "I do, indeed," replied our worthy friend. "Then you may go to your tent free" was the gracious answer. The following Saturday Mr. Mac— turned up at the Manse with a smiling face, and, grasping my hand, said, "Well, Mr. Leuty, I've just come to tell you I'm satisfied with Jesus." The rest cannot be told here. He went on the Sabbath to Coanwood and took part in the services. A letter from his wife testifies to the joy at home when the news was conveyed of this great change; "and there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." This was not the only case on that memorable day, but it was the most striking. Well might Mr. Patterson say at its close, "Well, what a day!"

LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Work Reviewed.

The annual meeting of the Laymen's Missionary League Council was held at Abbeydale Church, Sheffield, July 20th. There was a good attendance, which included, by invitation, both the Missionary Secretaries, the President of Conference, and the General Committee Secretary. The President, Sir W. P. Hartley, wrote regretting inability to be present, and Mr. J. Sivil took the chair. The report for the year had many encouraging features, and a considerable amount of useful work has been accomplished. In many districts not only educational work and organisation had been effected, but there had been the inevitable result in increased number and amount of subscriptions and revenue for missionary funds. Some very interesting and inspiring figures were presented to the meeting, comparing certain aspects of missionary revenue upon which the L.M.L. have been particularly working. In 1909-10 (the year before the L.M.L. commenced), and the last published report, 1913-1914, there are comparisons which may well fill us with hope and enthusiasm. In 1909 there were 360 laymen's subscriptions of £1 and upwards. In the latter year the number had increased to 690. An increase of over 90 per cent. in four years in the number of such donations cannot but be regarded as a triumph for L.M.L. propaganda, but further encouragement is to be found in the amounts of such subscriptions. Whereas in 1909 the gifts of £5 and upwards could easily be counted upon the fingers, and only one donation of £10 and upwards could be found, there were now over thirty donations of £5 and upwards, quite a number of these were over £10, and nearly a dozen of £20 and over. Naturally, these increases have had their effect upon the missionary income, the General Fund showing a net increase of over £1,000, and the African of over £3,000. For all this we thank God and take courage for the future. This matter of annual subscriptions from the laymen has from the first been one of the primary objects of the L.M.L., and it is particularly gratifying to find that so large a measure of success has resulted from the educational work of the past four years. Still, there is much more to do, and steps were taken to broaden the work still further in this direction. The immediate aim of the L.M.L. is to secure one thousand donors of £1 and upwards, and it is hoped to secure this in the near future. Unfortunately, the shortened Conference, the war, and other difficulties prevented the usual reception and public meeting at Reading, but it is hoped more than to make this good next year.

Rev. S. Horton, whose presence was cordially welcomed, presented a scheme to the meeting for the members of the League to make themselves responsible for the funds needful for our industrial work in Africa as a definite object to which we might devote ourselves. The idea was favourably received, and steps were taken to put it into actual operation. Regret was expressed that the Secretary, Mr. Jackson, had failed to secure election upon the Missionary Committee at the recent Conference, and it was decided to prepare legislation to secure representation upon the Committee. The officers were all re-appointed, and additions made to the Executive and Council. Some alterations in conditions of membership were made, involving a contribution to missionary funds of 5s. per year and upwards from each member. The meeting—for which some laymen had travelled long distances to be present—was most encouraging, and we look forward with confidence and hope to increasing activity and achievement in the near future.

Rev. T. Featon, who for some considerable time was the Secretary of the Hull Ministers' Fraternal, has recently removed to Bradford. On the occasion of his leaving he was presented by his brethren with several books as a token of appreciation. Rev. W. Shipley, on behalf of the ministers, made the presentation.

Our Extending Missionary Operations.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

A glance through the agenda which was placed in the hands of the members of the Committee on assembling at Abbeydale Church, Sheffield, last week, revealed the great growth in the missionary work of our Church. Developments are constantly taking place, both in organisation and on the field. There were just fifty items of business, but, thanks to the efficiency of the work of preparation by the secretaries, and the business tactfulness of the President of Conference and Councillor H. Speed, who shared the honours of chairmanship, the whole business was despatched in time for the brethren to lunch together on the second day. As is usual at the July meeting there were several new members, including the Secretary of Conference, who recorded the minutes, and the president of the Women's Missionary Federation, Mrs. H. Croft-Baker, of Cleethorpes, who was attending her first Committee and received a very cordial welcome.

The dominant note was the need for increased generosity and sacrifice on the part of our people, and was struck when the Financial Secretary announced that we were owing the General Treasurer, Sir William P. Hartley, the sum of £6,500. This note was sounded again and again, and if the whole Church could only have heard the burning appeal of the General Secretary there would have been an immediate removal of this incubus of debt. Mind, there is no pessimism; our Church has never failed its Missionary Society, and will not now. A circular is to be prepared and sent out urging (1) subscribers to give their subscriptions earlier in the year, so as to save interest, and to add 25 per cent. in view of Sir William's conditional promise; (2) the issuing of more missionary boxes in the circuits; (3) greater preparations for the missionary anniversary, such as getting the choirs to attend the meetings, asking the churches beforehand to pray for our missions, and effective advertising.

Economy also is to be effected in the cost of the yearly report by only inserting the names of subscribers and collectors of ten shillings and upwards, as is done by other missionary societies.

Choirs and the Kafue Institute.

Mr. T. Jackson, the secretary of the Laymen's League, stated that 5,000 copies of the appeal had been sent out, sufficient to enable each superintendent minister to supply all the choirs in his circuit, and that 273 replies had been received. The Ex-President suggested as a reason for this small response that the summer was not the best time for reaching choirs. Will choirmasters or choir secretaries kindly note that all they are asked to do at present is to make the promise, fill up the postcard supplied and post it? The Secretary hopes to have 1,000 replies by the next meeting of the Committee in October.

Laymen's Missionary League.

The war had interfered with the plans of the League, including the holding of the meeting at Conference. The League had met and had decided to have a fixed object, which should be the maintenance of the medical and industrial work in Central Africa. They have compiled a register of names of laymen in all the circuits who, according to the yearly report, do not appear to be subscribers, and are going to issue a personal appeal. The president, Mr. J. Sivil, gave some striking figures demonstrating the activity of the League. Four years ago, at the first Laymen's Conference reception, there were reported 350 subscribers of £1 and upwards; in the latest report there are the names of 697 laymen contributing this amount, an increase of 347.

Women's Missionary Federation.

Mrs. Leuty reported they were increasing the number of branches and "getting on nicely." There would be 120 representatives at the meetings to be held in Liverpool and Birkenhead in October. The women appreciated the legislation passed by the Conference giving the branches representation in their Quarterly Meetings. Mrs. H. Speed has been elected vice-president, which carries the presidency next year.

Young People's Department.

Rev. W. J. Ward was warmly congratulated on his appointment by the Conference to the secretaryship. The sympathies and support of our young people are to be secured for the Army work, and it is believed that the appeal in last week's *Leader* for an average of one penny per scholar will result in our being able to build and equip a Sunday-school Soldiers' Hut in the great camp at Richmond, Yorks.

Work in the Army.

The report prepared by Rev. J. E. Gilbert, the chaplain at Aldershot, stated that four of our chaplains—Revs. G. Standing, J. Firth, G. Kendall and E. W. Smith—are in France, Rev. T. W. Hancock is en route for the Dardanelles, Rev. R. F. Wearmouth is under orders for the front, and the other six are in home camps. A glowing tribute was paid to the splendid work being done by the Hartley College students in the huts. There is a deficiency in the Army account of £136 14s., and as there is pressing need for the work to be enlarged it was decided to make an immediate appeal for a simultaneous retiring collection, in which the appeal on behalf of the Soldiers' Home at Aldershot will be merged, and before this appears in print every circuit will have been circularised to use the occasion of the anniversary of the outbreak of war in generously helping this effective ministry to our soldier lads. Other churches are leaving us far behind in their contributions to this work, and we cannot afford to neglect it. Will the Yorkshire churches note that it is hoped their contributions will be large enough to ensure a Yorkshire Hut in the new camp at Ripon? At any rate,

their generous gifts will ensure its having special consideration by the Army Board.

Sustentation Fund Grants.

There are seventy-six needy circuits and thirty-eight mission stations, and the grants are all made at the July meeting. So satisfactory was the work of the Allocation Committee that their recommendations were accepted in every case but one, in which instance a small addition was made. A few minutes sufficed to go through the list.

The New Executive.

Six rounds of voting were needed to complete the elections, and the following constitute the Executive for the year:—Sir W. P. Hartley, J.P., Revs. S. Horton, J. Mayles, A. T. Guttery, J. T. Barkby, A. Baldwin, J. T. Thompson, J. S. White, M. P. Davison, H. J. Maylor, G. Bennett, J. Pickett, Messrs. C. S. Parkin, J. Sivil, R. Fletcher, J.P., J. Brearley, J.P., A. Shaw, J.P., W. Windsor, J.P., and Councillor H. Speed.

Foreign Missionary Reports.

Fernando Po.—At Santa Isabel the collections and class moneys are £8 above last quarter, and there has been a corresponding spiritual uplift. Rev. H. Markham Cook adds, "at the close of eleven years' service we rejoice in abundant health." On returning to San Carlos, Rev. B. Batty has had warm welcome. Mr. J. P. Sogo willed all his cocoa trees on the mission hill to the mission, and they have been handed over and incorporated with the mission farm. At Bottler Point Rev. W. H. Collins is doing good and useful work, and Mrs. Showers is worthy, and successfully continuing the work at Baticopo.

South Africa.—On the Alwal North Station there is an increase of forty catechumen members and four preaching places. The class and ticket moneys have reached £161 2s. 10d. for the quarter. The largely increased expenditure due to extension of native work in the Transvaal has been met locally. The Land Act that so crippled our work is not now being strictly enforced, so it is likely we shall recover some of our losses through removals.

Nigeria.—Rev. R. Banham has succeeded Rev. W. Norcross at Oyibia. They are suffering in this area from a stagnation in trade, and the food problem is becoming serious. There have been a few baptisms at Oron, and the income on this station is £215. The ladies at the Girls' Institute report a successful term, and rejoice in the work done. Three fresh pupils have been admitted, and the girl appointed as monitor teacher is displaying marked ability. In the northern part of the field, at Bende and Ithubi, the persecution of Christians has abated. A new school has been opened at Okoko Item. Rev. F. W. Dodds recently travelled twenty-two miles, and had a baptismal service in every town on the road. There is an appeal for more missionaries for this field, and the pressing importance of extension was emphasised in the statement that Mohammedanism is pressing nearer, and within eight miles of one of our outposts there is a town swarming with these followers of Islam. In this area the fight between the Cross and the Crescent is waxing fiercer, and unless we push forward our frontiers now the opportunity will pass, never to recur in our time. It is again primarily a question of money.

Central Africa.—The Nanzela report was referred to a special committee. The site of the new headquarters of the Nambala station has been fixed at Shakumbela, forty miles to the S.E., and two days nearer the railway, and Rev. J. A. Kerswell is making the preparations for the removal. Dr. Gerrard has sent his first impressions of Kasenga. At Kanchindu over 200 evangelistic services have been held, an average of sixteen each Sunday, entailing fairly long journeys. Eight of the boys are ripening for baptism. Rev. R. J. Fell is preparing for the press a new reading book, containing one hundred folk tales. On all the stations the work, industrial, medical, educational, and evangelistic, is being vigorously pursued.

Rev. and Mrs. C. Finlay, Rev. R. Cawthorne, and Miss Richardson are shortly returning to their stations. Mrs. Cawthorne and Rev. A. H. Richardson are going out for the first time. Resolutions, wishing them Divine protection on the voyage and great success in their work, were passed and forwarded to them.

Other reports included that upon the Home Missions, showing an increase of eight members; that on the mission vans, revealing their continued usefulness, for nearly sixty conversions were reported; that on Miss Perrett's splendid work in South Wales, and those from Needy Stations and Special Agents.

The ordination of Rev. R. Cawthorne, as reported in another part of this issue, took place on Wednesday evening. As Mr. Cawthorne's wedding took place on Thursday morning to Miss Pickett, daughter of Rev. James Pickett, a telegram of congratulation and good wishes was forwarded to Chesterfield. Thanks were warmly accorded to the Abbeydale officials, and Rev. J. R. Tranter for excellent arrangements made for the sessions of the Committee.

Rev. C. and Mrs. Finlay will sail from Liverpool on August 11th, instead of the 4th, as stated in the "Herald." Rev. R. Cawthorne, who is returning to Ithubi, West Africa, will sail by the same steamer, and also Rev. A. H. Richardson, who is leaving England for his first term on the foreign field, and is relieving Rev. E. E. Pritchard at Adadia, West Africa, who is coming home on furlough. We trust that our friends may have a safe and pleasant voyage, and a happy term of service in Africa.

"It's a Long Way to Go."

By A. JACKSON SMITH.

Lance-Corporal Harold Carson, a smart, capable soldier, who was serving with the Colours at Jubbulpore, India, sighed heavily when he heard for the first time his comrades singing "It's a long, long way to Tipperary." The sentiment of the song affected him strangely; the long way to go, which the singers emphasised so boisterously did not suggest to him the far away county in the south of Ireland. His mind turned to Dimsdale, a peaceful old-world village in Sheshire, with winding lanes and trim cottages, and grand sweep of hills in the back ground, where upon a lofty summit a battered castle stood, known to him from early boyhood. Wide stretches of sea now separated him from those familiar scenes, and yet he felt that the song had to him a much deeper meaning than that denoted by distance, sea and land, could be compassed; but there was "a long, long way" far more difficult to negotiate.

The mail that morning had brought him a letter from Janet Burland. "I do not think," she wrote, "I can ever bring myself to care for you in the way you desire. I cannot imagine what induced you to become a soldier. A man in uniform does not appeal to me, particularly the uniform of a soldier." Ah, therein was the long way to go. How to overcome her prejudices, and win her for himself, was the Tipperary which troubled his mind. Her impressions of soldiers were formed from what she had seen of them in the city twenty miles distant from her home, where there were huge barracks.

This was not the first time she had intimated her disapproval of his joining the Army. How vividly he remembered the morning when he told her of his enlistment—years had passed, but every detail of that hour was still fresh in his mind. The sun shone gloriously; a cuckoo called from a tree hard by, and a lark, lost to sight, was singing in the clouds. "I am sorry you are going away," she said, "very sorry; we thought you would be something better than a soldier. Good-bye, Harold, don't forget the little chapel and Sunday-school," and then, with a forced smile, she added, "we shall be pleased to hear from you sometimes." It was this which led to the correspondence which followed, and which intermittently had continued all the years. She little knew how greatly she had influenced his life. The knowledge of her sweet, pure, beautiful character had compelled him to live his best. Janet Burland regarded soldiers a worthless class of men, drunken and lazy. There were honourable exceptions, no doubt, such as Hedley Vickers, who was a native of the neighbouring village—an item of information to which the "Weekly Herald" frequently called attention; but she could not understand how a Christian could be a soldier. She had often heard her father say he reckoned soldiers no "count," and she accepted his views implicitly. Eli Burland was a splendid type of man. People said he was narrow, but they believed him to be genuine; his piety was never questioned. It was generally conceded, too, that Squire Craig had not a better farmer than Eli on the estate. The squire was a strict churchman, but Eli attended the Methodist chapel. He was the society steward and superintendent of the Sunday-school. When he applied to the squire for the farm known as "The Cedars," he said: "I had better tell you, sir, I'm a chapel man. I hope you won't object to me on that account."

"Well, Burland," the squire replied, "I shall not press that point. All the other tenants attend the parish church, and I should like you to come too, but I shall leave that matter with you. I make no conditions in your case."

"I thank you, sir," answered Burland.

Eli did not object to worshipping in the village church, when, as he put it, "there was nothing going on at the chapel." He enjoyed the solemnity of the place, the ivy-covered old building stirred his soul with reverent feelings, but to him there was no place so dear as the little Bethel known as the Primitives. The squire, out of respect for Eli, gave him a handsome donation towards a much needed new building, and when they commenced to build he laid one of the foundation stones, and occasionally presided at the public gatherings. Life ran smoothly at Dimsdale, and a bond of strong affection existed between Squire Craig and his tenants.

The circuit, of which Dimsdale formed part, ere long found it necessary to apply for what was termed additional ministerial labour, and the Conference appointed a second minister in the person of Rev. Colin Gregory Clarke, a young man of great promise. Dimsdale was one of the societies in the section over which he had special oversight. Mr. Clarke, fresh from college, was everywhere received with manifestations of favour, and he entered into his work with much enthusiasm. He was more than ordinarily gifted, and was endowed also with a large measure of common sense. He did not parade his learning either in or out of the pulpit, but no one could be long in his presence without realising that he possessed exceptional ability, and the transparency and goodness of his character were also equally conspicuous. The congregation greatly improved under his ministry; his sermons were thoughtfully prepared, and expressed in language which the people readily understood. At Dimsdale, with a view to develop a taste for reading among the young people, he organised a literary class, and Janet Burland was, by unanimous vote, appointed secretary. This brought the young minister and herself often into each others company. The literary class was not a great success, so far as numbers were concerned, but Janet profited by it immensely. It was surprising how quickly she grasped and assimilated what she read, particularly a book which happened to suit her taste, and the minister found great pleasure in directing her reading and made a judicious selection of subjects for her special study. The tongues of the village gossips were not less silent. What mastered it to them the mischief they wrought! The

minister had been careful to make known his engagement immediately he entered the circuit, but the tale bearers ignored this fact, and persistently linked the name of Janet with that of Rev. C. G. Clarke. Reports of various kinds were industriously circulated, being secretly whispered from one to another with growing significance, and always with the usual caution "in strictest confidence."

In due time these rumours reached Jubbulpore.

Harold was certainly perturbed. It was true Janet was free, the correspondence had been purely friendly on her part. He had declared his affection for her, and had pleaded for some word in return, but she had not gratified him, still, reading between the lines, he was not without hope. He felt that her only objection was that he was a soldier. She had written him beautiful letters, full of help and comfort, but the word he longed for most was always missing, nevertheless he did not despair. He now decided that he would leave the Army. As a soldier he had no chance with Janet. He had good prospects of promotion, he was a capital shot, and the stripes he wore testified to the excellence of his character, but these things were of little consequence to Janet, she would rather he was a farmer. His seven years' were nearly up, he would go home, back to Dimsdale, and press his suit in civilian dress.

He reached England by H.M. Troopship "Rearw" in October, and presented himself at "The Cedars" the day after his arrival in port. Janet was pleased to see him, and was quick to notice the striking improvement in his appearance and speech. The years of training had wonderfully developed his physique, and he impressed her as a fine fellow. Eli and his wife greeted him heartily, and introduced him as an old scholar to Rev. C. G. Clarke, who happened to be there at the time. It was the preaching service at Dimsdale that night, and at the close Mr. Clarke, in a few choice words, welcomed Harold home again. Harold fittingly responded. Yet somehow he was far from feeling happy; he had noticed how familiar the minister was at "The Cedars." He would have been better pleased if there had been no Rev. C. G. Clarke. He sought an interview with Janet the next day to ascertain how matters stood. She was amazed and positively overwhelmed by the depth and passion of his words. There was an accent of sincerity not only in what he said, but in the tone of his voice, which touched her deeply. She was surprised to hear for the first time that which for months past had been common gossip concerning the young minister and herself. "If," said Harold, "the minister is your choice, so let it be; there is nothing for me but to submit. I will quietly leave the locality, and you need have no fear of ever being annoyed by my presence; but I shall have to hear my dismissal from your own lips. I cannot surrender you easily. I have loved you from when we were children, and my love for you has grown with the passing years. You have been the angel of my life. All that I am, so far as character and position are concerned, are due to you, but I will sink self for your sake." Janet was entirely overcome. She could not restrain the fast falling tears. She had never dreamed such devotion possible. She could not speak. He pleaded for one word, but, strange to say, she could not frame that word. She was dumb. Harold misinterpreted her silence, and concluded that Janet's preference was for the young minister, and, trembling in every limb, he gripped her hand as in a vice, and with a look of intense grief he hurried away. It was night, black night. He had lost, but he did not regret having loved; he was infinitely a better man in consequence.

It was the following August when the outbreak of war startled the nation. The whole country was seething with excitement, and thoughts of a ghastly European war filled every heart with horror.

One night the lights were burning much later than usual at "The Cedars," and Eli Burland with his wife, and Janet, sat with anxious faces discussing the beginning of hostilities.

"It is unthinkable!" exclaimed Eli. "I feel indignant with Germany."

"I suppose, father," interrupted Janet, "Harold will be called to the front? He is a Reservist, you know."

"He will," answered her father, and I only wish I had his chance. Much as I hate war, I envy Harold's opportunity to defend the honour of his country."

"What's that?" cried Janet, hushing the others for a moment.

"A bicycle bell."

She flew to the door. It was a beautiful night. The moon was at the full, and there, standing at the gate, was Harold, dressed in khaki. How noble he looked.

"I am just on my way to say good-bye to my sister," he said, "and seeing a light I thought I would ring as I passed."

"I'm glad you did!" exclaimed Janet.

"Come in," shouted the others eagerly. He needed no persuasion. An appetising supper was set in front of him, and presently the young couple found themselves alone. Janet was radiant.

"You seem pleased rather than otherwise, Janet, that I am going to the war."

"Yes, Harold, I am; and if I was a man I would go too."

"Do you really mean that, Janet?" he cried.

"I do. My views are changed completely. I believe we are entering upon a righteous war. I have been reading Sir Edward Grey, and I tell you if I were a man I would ask no greater honour or reward than to fight in the interests of little Belgium."

Harold could scarcely believe that he heard aright. "Our minister's young lady," she continued, "has gone

to join the branch of the French Red Cross called 'Secours Aux Blessés.' I intend to go too."

A few brief explanations followed, and Harold was almost beside himself with joy.

"Janet," he said, "I have little time. It is now past midnight, and I am due in Chester in a few hours. If you cannot be a soldier will you be a soldier's wife?"

"I will," she whispered, and the next moment they were locked in each other's arms.

The silence and suspense which followed that night were just terrible. At length the tension was slightly relieved by the appearance of Harold's name among the missing after the battle of Mons.

A message from the War Office was not very hopeful. Days of anxious waiting, however, were succeeded by rapture of bliss. The postman appeared at the door one morning with a letter from Harold himself. It stated that he was well, but a prisoner of war, interned at Munster Lager, Hanover, Germany.

Janet's prejudices against soldiers are all gone. She earnestly prays every wakeful hour for the end of the war, and she declares that the proudest moment of her life will be the moment when she becomes a soldier's wife.

RICHMOND PARK CAMP.

Some Impressions.

Richmond Park (Surrey), bordering on the Roehampton side, has been invaded recently by a great host of Territorials. At the present time there are over 6,000 men encamped, and when the camp is complete there will be 13,000. Among the early arrivals were several Primitive Methodists, including sons of Revs. A. T. Guttery, F. Pickett, and Alderman J. Shepperd, of Harrogate. Some of these, however, have been removed now to other camps. Many of the men belong to the professional classes, and include architects, surveyors, civil servants, schoolmasters, etc. Some of them are men of fine physique, and all are well bronzed and set up by their open-air life and training. It is curious to discover that in this, as in some other camps, there is a good deal of hard swearing. It is an unfortunate habit, but does not mean quite so much as may appear at first. There is certainly a robust moral sentiment in the camp, as the following incident illustrates. Quite recently one of the latest arrivals at the camp wore at one of the young ladies who was serving in the Y.M.C.A. tent, and he was instantly pounced upon by three or four of the other men, and received a well-deserved punishment. So complete and effective was the chastisement that he was compelled to rest the following day.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the work of the Y.M.C.A. They have erected two tents for refreshments, games and writing and one for concerts. A concert is held every evening, and is usually arranged by the Y.M.C.A. or by one of the battalions in the camp. The tent is nearly always crowded, and the items are greatly appreciated, encores being frequently clamoured for. The Y.M.C.A. have secured an enthusiastic band of workers, including some students from Cliff College and one student from Cheshunt College, Cambridge, who came from New Zealand a year ago and is a nephew of Mr. Isitt, the great temperance orator. Mr. Isitt has promised to take a service at our church in Barnes, which is the nearest of the Free Churches to the camp. Some of the men have attended services there, and several came as guests to the annual garden party held in connection with our Barnes Church. The religious side of the camp life is not neglected. There are two full-time chaplains, an Anglican and a Presbyterian, in the camp. It is my privilege to conduct a parade service in the camp every Sunday morning for Congregationalists, Baptists, United Methodists and Primitive Methodists, and to minister to the men of my section in other ways. The parade service is held in one of the Y.M.C.A. tents, and is excellently attended. One of the men plays the piano, and the singing is very bright and inspiring. It is easy to detect the religious upbringing in the singing of the men. There is something delightfully fresh and inspiring in a number of men, who feel they are up against great realities, meeting for worship, and makes one feel the uniqueness of the opportunity in ministering to them at such a critical juncture.

Helpful as the parade service is, it is more by personal contact that one is able to discover points of view and establish a feeling of intimacy with the men. There is a willingness to talk privately about spiritual matters, and many happy surprises are in store for those who are able to give time to this personal work. What the men do appreciate is a frank, genial, manly comradeship on the part of the minister. The war is by no means the chief topic of conversation during the week, and on Sundays they are not anxious to hear about it, nor do they wish to be reminded of, or commended for, any sacrifice they have made. In the judgment of some of them the word "sacrifice" is being overworked and needs a rest. What they do feel they need is some spiritual ministry which will build up their faith and courage and give them an arresting sense of the "Beyond."

THOS. B. HEWARD.

The President of Conference (Rev. John Day Thompson) and Rev. Samuel Horton will conduct a missionary tour in Devon and Cornwall from August 4th to August 15th, with a view to helping and stimulating our churches in these two Districts. They hope to visit the following towns in Devon during their itinerancy:—August 4th, Exmouth; August 5th, Teignmouth; August 6th, Torquay; August 7th, Dartmouth; August 8th-10th, Plymouth and Torquay. Arrangements for the Cornwall side of the tour have not yet been completed, but will soon be arranged. It is hoped that the friends in Devon and Cornwall will make the services widely known, and that the tour will be a very successful one.

WITH THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

By Rev. George Kendall, C.F.

Rev. A. T. Guttery's article on "Fatal Peace" is most timely, and deserves to be widely read. What a great leader our President-Elect is! He would make a fine General. He points out the real danger, but he also gives the secret of ultimate success. "Tenacity of purpose may become unpopular, but it is in stern fidelity that Britain will keep its soul alive and save the world." It is the spirit of our lads here at the front that should animate those at home. There is a question most people are asking in these days, "When is the war going to end?" We cannot answer that at present. The end is not in sight, but with our bulldog breed we are holding on, slow, but sure. The many days of waiting fill us full of weariness; we suffer intolerable agonies, but, as Mr. Guttery well says, "Our dead soldiers and widowed women bid us continue the struggle till victory and peace are won."

How true the old message is—"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength"! Look at our boys out there! They chase away our secret doubts and the pessimism that comes to most of us at times. To see the transports unload and listen to the songs and conversation of our lads as they first set their feet on foreign soil fills you with wonder. They know the risks, and have cheerfully come to take them. Talk to the veterans of this war, those who have gone through its worst and know that more is to come. They have no illusions. They face the stern reality. "They never turn their backs, but march breast forward." By sheer pluck and indomitable courage they will win their way through. The confidence of our lads is so strong and calm that one must believe in it and share its faith. So our leaders to-day, like the prophets of old, ring out their message of hope and inspire confidence, and our lads, noble heroes, point out the true pathway of sacrifice. Let us cease our murmurings and our fears: "Strengthen ye the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you."

The work of grace still continues. Last Sunday evening Captain Watson had the joy of recording thirty more names of men who had decided to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I conducted our newly formed Bible-class last Tuesday evening. The room was crowded with men, and we read round the class the fifth chapter of St. Matthew, and then followed with a talk on "Real Discipleship." It reminded us of the old Sunday-school days. Each man had his own Bible. It was the most attentive class I have ever conducted, and at the close we spent a few moments in silent prayer. Many of the men have asked me to inscribe my name in their Bibles, and in years to come, when they turn over the pages, their memories will be stirred and their souls inspired by the thoughts of these days. And so here at the front we are one with our Sunday-schools at home, and we are all children sitting at the feet of the Great Teacher. After the Bible-class we had our usual week evening service, and once again the hall was crowded in every part. Private Howdill, of Leeds, presided at the piano, and the choir he has trained rendered in excellent style the "Te Deum." It was thrilling to hear this old anthem sung, and the men were moved. It has been sung in all ages and under all circumstances, but to be sung in a soldiers' camp during the great European war! Here is something to fire the imagination, to thrill every fibre of our being! The anthem was a prayer, for many of these men who had faced death, and must face it again, responded in their hearts as the words rang out—

"We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Thy saints, in glory everlasting."

That prayer will be re-echoed by tens of thousands. Saints and heroes, good Christian soldiers by the thousand, are to be found in our noble army; they dignify it, they make it great, they are numbered here on earth with all the best of men, and will be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. New talent was discovered once again. Here is one lad who gave several fine recitations of his own composition. Some men are a bit shy at coming forward, but they are proving their gifts, and will use them when they return home. One reason why our meetings are so successful is because we encourage the men themselves to take part.

Another interesting camp is the Remounts. These men are drawn from all ranks of society. Their camp is quite a picture, for the men have transformed it into a garden. Between the stables, where the horses are tethered in long rows, you can see lovely borders with all kinds of flowers, plants and evergreens. In the centre of one is the figure of a horse arranged with various kinds of flowers. The men take a great pride in their gardens. You would be surprised also to see several well-stocked vegetable plots. This camp stands on the top of a great plateau overlooking the valley of the Seine, and near are some of the quaint, picturesque farm-houses for which Normandy is famous. Captain Watson and myself conducted an excellent service in this camp the other evening. These men are difficult to reach, but when once you have gripped them they will do anything for you. Our motor driver this evening was a young Irish lady who has given her car and time in the interests of the Y.M.C.A. She is a fearless driver, and the way she took us down the steep hills was most astonishing. Needless to say, she brought us safely home. The other evening, when the day's work was ended, we sat on the cobbles on the beach surrounded by a group of pretty French children. I wish our boys and girls could have heard them sing the "Marseillaise"—it was thrilling. But what was most amusing was their quaint rendering of "God

Save the King." It was ten o'clock before the happy party broke up, and we went home feeling better for the hour we spent with the children.

Since writing last I have been much cheered with gifts and kindly messages, entirely unsolicited, from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Slough, who sent 5s.; Mrs. G. Pratt, of Blackburn, who sent cigarettes; Miss Mary E. Schofield, of Haslingden, who sent a second parcel of cigarettes and chocolates, and a splendid gift of 20s. from friends at Bourne Church, Bristol Fourth Circuit, per Mr. W. Lee, society steward. This was a great surprise, and was the result of hearing one of my letters read. I propose entertaining 300 of our wounded soldiers to tea through the kindness of these friends, and have already made the necessary arrangements. A friend also sent some bandages made from linen woven by her great-grandmother 100 years ago. I receive many interesting letters, and I hardly know how to express my thanks sufficiently.

CHESTER-LE-STREET FESTIVAL.

Memories of the Demonstration.

This gathering, inaugurated forty-four years ago, has come to be recognised as one of the best of its kind in the North of England. In the earlier years, Lumley Castle, on the opposite side of the River Wear, with its beautiful grounds, was the scene of the Saturday meetings. There being at that time no bridge over the river, the boatman had a more than busy day in conveying the crowds who came from all quarters to this festival. And on the Sunday the old town of Chester-le-Street was stirred from end to end as these sturdy Methodists sung the old hymns in the streets and exhorted the people to "turn to the Lord and seek salvation." There was sunny-souled John Clark, now grown white in the service, yet still spared to us, with his fiddle, striking the tunes. And with splendid types of Primitive Methodists like William Wilson, Thomas Armstrong, Thomas Turnbull, William Allison, Henry Pringle, Thomas Telford and others amongst the local host, you had the pledge of a glorious day. For they were men of God, who dwelt in the secret place of the most high, and had a great passion for the Church and the uplifting of men. And the preachers, whose names are still household words in the North of England, what magnificent types for appeal in the open air! At the first gathering, a stranger to the North, Rev. W. Harland, held the people spellbound. And a local draper who came to the camp ground, and who had no connection with our Church, was so much impressed with Mr. Harland's sermon that he gave £5 as a thankoffering. And as these anniversaries have been held year after year, men like Tommy Wanless, James Barras, Thomas Nightingale, John Barnard, Stephenson Stobbs, Tommy Campbell and others have drawn vast crowds to the camp ground to hear the good news, and often to believe and enter upon the new life. To listen to some of the older men describe some of the scenes is to realise that they were Pentecostal seasons. And these bright days have not passed, even although the "old order may change, giving place to new."

Last week-end was no exception to the rule. On Saturday afternoon a descriptive cantata entitled "The Five Steps," was given in the Co-operative Hall by a choir of 120 children before a splendid audience. Rev. W. E. Farndale made a capable leader and Mr. R. Urwin an effective conductor of the choir, with Miss Lavender and T. Urwin as accompanists. Mr. Jos. Bruce presided, with Mr. J. Donkin vice-chairman. The children acquitted themselves admirably, and provided a fine programme. Following a public tea, Messrs. J. Longstaff, T. Campbell and J. Johnson addressed a splendid audience at the public meeting. Mr. John Simpson made a capital chairman, and Mr. A. Barrance as vice-chairman ably supported him. Miss Storey, of Birtley, rendered good service as soloist. The Sunday services were amongst the best we have had. The people gathered from every church in the circuit, and a large number of outsiders stood in the crowd and listened reverently to the messages. Councillor T. R. Morson, with the speakers of the Saturday meeting, served us well, not only with his addresses, but as soloist. All the preachers had a good time. There was something for everyone, the children not being overlooked. Once more we had an illustration that, given men with a message, the people will gather to hear it gladly. For the thirty-eighth year, Tommy Campbell, young and fresh as ever, captured his audiences. (It is like yesterday since the writer, as a boy, saw him come forward in Saville-street Church, North Shields, and give himself to Christ.) And who will forget Joseph Longstaff's messages, especially his charming pictures of the parable of the Prodigal Son, which drove the truth home and stirred the people to the depths? And James Johnson, of Durham, declaring with an emphasis that the great need of the age is not reform so much as regeneration, and appealing for immediate acceptance of the conditions of spiritual renewal. A tribute was paid to the man who for so long has acted as singing leader, Mr. Clark, and who after Sunday evening retires from the post. But the divine music he, with others, has helped to kindle in many a soul at these Camp Meetings does not die away. They have sung the song that reaches the heart, the new song, and all our to-morrows will be brighter and holier for the ministries of these men of God at Chester-le-Street. N. J. S.

In the recent theory examination of the Trinity College of Music, London, Miss Mildred K. Paulding successfully passed in Harmony. In November last she gained her certificate with honours in the Senior Division for pianoforte playing. She is the daughter of Mr. G. A. Paulding, choirmaster of the Herridge Memorial Church, Bournemouth.

Aircraft and Bombardment Insurance. Government Scheme.

SIR.—The directors of the insurance company beg to inform the ministers and Primitive Methodist trustees that they have made arrangements with the Yorkshire Insurance Company, Ltd., which is an approved company under the Government scheme, for the insurance of Connexional properties and ministers' personal effects. Unless insurance be effected under this scheme no claim can be made for compensation in case of damage by aircraft or bombardment. The term is for twelve calendar months, and the rates, which are alike for all districts, are as follows:—Against aircraft only, against aircraft and bombardment: (a) Buildings, rent, and contents of churches, schools, and dwelling-houses in which no trade or manufacture is carried on, 2s. per £100, 3s. per £100; (b) all other buildings and their rents, 3s. per £100, 4s. 6d. per £100. In areas where the bombardment risk exists this risk must be covered. The amount of the insurance must be the same as the existing fire policy. The directors of the insurance company and the Chapel Aid Association are therefore compelled to make it a condition of existing loans remaining with trustees that the property on which such loans have been advanced shall be insured at once against these special risks. Proposal forms may be had by return post from the Secretary and the full premium must in all cases be forwarded when the form is returned to the office. A circular letter on the subject has been forwarded to the superintendent ministers.

JOHN COWARD,
Chairman Insurance Company.
W. P. HARTLEY,
Chairman Chapel Aid Association.
THOMAS J. GLADWIN,
Secretary.

Kentmere House, Scarcroft Hill, York.

Chapel Aid Association.—Important Notice.

SIR.—Will you kindly permit the directors to announce in a preliminary way to depositors and to trustees who have loans from the C.A.A., that in view of the circumstances created by the war and the Government war loans, the question of interest rates has necessarily come up for consideration and adjustment. The directors are of the opinion that the rate of interest paid to depositors, which has remained at the same figure throughout the twenty-five years of the Association's work, should now be raised. The directors recognise with much gratification the unabated confidence of our people in the security the Association offers. It has therefore been decided that from September 25th, 1915, the interest paid on all deposits shall be at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. To meet this additional charge the directors are compelled to make the rate of interest payable on loans 4½ per annum from September 20th, 1915. These changes will be notified by circular letter to the trustees and depositors at an early date. Applicants for loans will observe this new rate in making their applications.—Yours, etc.

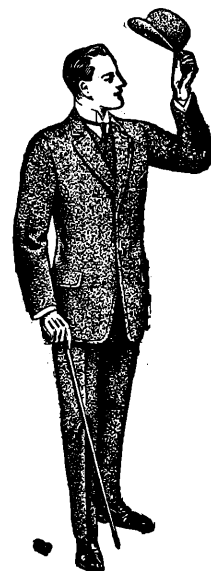
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8.0 p.m.—United Prayer and Praise Service. Leaders: Rev. CHAS. E. BUCK and Mr. H. G. MATTHEWS.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st.

7.0 a.m.—Prayer Meeting. Leader: Mr. THOS. W. WHITE.
10.0 a.m.—Open-air Mission. Led by Rev. CHAS. E. BUCK and the BRASS BAND.
11.0 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP. Preacher: Rev. H. J. TAYLOR.
2.30 p.m.—Open-air Mission. Led by the BRASS BAND.
3.30 p.m.—P.S.A. FELLOWSHIP. Speaker: Rev. JAMES FLANAGAN.
5.0 p.m.—Devotional Class. Mr. GEO. HILLS and Mr. J. T. SMITH.
6.0 p.m.—Brass Band March and Open-air Mission. Led by Rev. CHAS. E. BUCK.
6.30 p.m.—Poor Children's Service. Sister NELLIE.
7.0 p.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP. Preacher: Rev. JAMES FLANAGAN.
8.30 p.m.—Consecration and Prayer Meeting.
8.30 p.m.—Open-air Service, conducted by Mr. J. DARLING.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd.

7.0 a.m.—Prayer Meeting. Leader: Rev. C. E. BUCK.
10.0 a.m.—Open-air Mission. Led by Rev. C. E. BUCK, Mr. T. W. WHITE and the BRASS BAND.
11.0 a.m.—Praise and Testimony Meeting. Led by Rev. H. J. TAYLOR.
12.0 noon—SERMON by Rev. JAMES FLANAGAN.
1.0 p.m.—Luncheon. 1/- each.
2.0 p.m.—Brass Band March through Slumdom. Led by the MISSION STAFF.
3.0 p.m.—PUBLIC MEETING, to be addressed by SISTER ELSIE, SISTER EMMA, SISTER BESSIE, SISTER RACHEL, and SISTER MARGARET. Mrs. TAYLOR will preside.
5.0 p.m.—Tea. 6d. each.
6.0 p.m.—Grand March through another part of Slumdom, led by the MISSION STAFF and BRASS BAND.
7.0 p.m.—GREAT PUBLIC MEETING.
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THE Primitive Methodist Leader

INCORPORATING
"THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST" & "THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST WORLD."

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1915.

All literary communications must be sent to the Editor, 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.

Advertisements and all communications relating thereto must be sent to Mr. T. M. Brindley, 4, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C. and must arrive by Tuesday morning.

Church News, Remittances and Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths, and prepaid subscriptions for the "Leader" must be sent to The Manager, 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C. Church News and Notices should arrive by Tuesday morning. The Leader subscription rates are—Quarterly, 1s. 6d.; yearly, 5s. 6d.; abroad, 6s. 6d. Post Free.

AMONG THE VILLAGES.

In the Vale of the Glem.

By W. M. Patterson.

"Where every prospect pleases, and only—" But, stay; let us not look at the obverse side just now. The pleasing prospects will do for the present; they fill the optics for the moment very nicely. To the eye of a Northerner the woodlands in the expanses on either side of the Glem are specially attractive, for Suffolk can grow trees. Coppice and plantation stud the landscape wherever the eye turns, and the wealth of foliage, layer upon layer, in its varied green, so fresh, so exuberant in its life, so lustrous in the sunshine of the early days of summer, is a refreshment and joy to behold.

As to the villages, for picturesque Foxearth would take some beating. Long Melford, too—that is, away from the very modern section, near to the railway station. At Foxearth Primitive Methodism has no footing, whilst at Long Melford the condition of our cause has been a problem, as our London authorities know, for many years. As a matter of fact the General Committee and Missionary Committee have the matter under consideration now. The village, I suppose, has some 1,500 or 1,600 inhabitants, industrious and frugal people generally, I take it. We have a commodious chapel in a good and central position, and the only other Nonconformist place is the Congregational Chapel, not a great deal larger than our own. So far as I can learn, we have now no society. A year ago we had seven members, three brave sisters then doing the major part of the work. In the interval they left us, and the place was closed. Well might Joseph Dinnick, who laboured there in its prosperous days over thirty years ago, say: "It is heart-breaking." Debt? No; it is a mere trifle. Debt is not the hindrance. Whatever its past, there seems to me an excellent opportunity for effective work in Long Melford, and I do not doubt our leaders will find the means and the man to bring it about.

There are contiguous villages where our societies have also fallen upon evil times. But they have had days of brightness and prosperity; and why may they not have such days again? And there is Sudbury itself. Sudbury is a populous place—a town with beautiful surroundings. Here we have a tolerably large chapel. The pity of it is that we have not a correspondingly strong society. James C. Sutcliffe and many another valiant man knows the region. The story is not exhilarating; yet there are episodes not lacking in inspiration, and our fathers had many a hundred infinitely less cheering prospects they tackled with faith and resolution—and succeeded. In more recent days we have known places lifted out of perplexing situations, and why not the Sudbury Circuit?

It is gratifying to know that our leading men are firmly opposing the desertion of the villages; and had the circumstances of the times been normal we should have heard more about the preservation of the struggling societies in the rural districts than we have done in the past eleven months of national and international upheaval. During one of my visits to the station, it was publicly stated at different places by different men—not Primitive Methodists—that unless strong churches came to the help of the rural districts, Nonconformity would become extinct in the villages. They were men of knowledge of what they spoke. It was supremely distasteful to me to hear it. Nor was I convinced of its absolute truth; but that there is some truth in the utterance cannot be entirely denied.

Oh, no; rural England is not all a desert place for Nonconformity by any manner of means. There are patches—some of them fairly spacious—where it gives cheer to Free Churchmen, and where Primitive Methodists are not a whit behind their brethren of other communions. And there is even such a pleasant wee patch in the Sudbury station. It is in the village of Glemsford. The remarkable thing is that from the industrial point of view the village has declined, and there are to be seen deserted matting and other factories and cottages in ruins. But the decline has apparently been arrested, though for some time our cause may remain what it has been for many years—a nursery. Young people are trained in the Sunday-school, then in their adolescence testify their allegiance to the Lord, and subsequently go to the towns. But the devotion and untiring labour of Mr. and Mrs. E. Watkinson, Miss Watkinson, Mr. Brett and others give promise of a stable and useful future in their new house of prayer.

For very many years Glemsford society worshipped in

an endowed Independent chapel. Of course, the Primitives did not get the endowment, but they made it easy for the Congregationalists of a neighbouring village to get it. Thirty years ago Mr. Watkinson's father bought a site for a chapel in one of the best positions in the village from a man who apologetically explained to his boon companions that he believed if he did not let the Primitives have it he would never prosper. Bit by bit the faithful band managed to "save up" £184, continuing the while to refrain from building a home of their own by reason of their fear of debt. Last spring, however, they entered upon the enterprise of a new chapel, the architect being Mr. J. Custerson, Saffron Walden, and the builder, Mr. H. Debenham, Glemsford. They had just started operations when the war broke out, and it was useless to have any foundation-stone ceremony, which was unfortunate for them from a financial point of view. Nevertheless, they pursued their way, and the bright and cosy chapel and schoolroom have just been opened. The premises are, indeed, an ornament to the village.

Sitting accommodation is provided in the chapel for 125 worshippers, and the schoolroom seats 60. The latter can be utilised, being separated only by folding doors, for chapel services when occasion requires it. Sympathetic support has been given to the project by members of other denominations as well as our own, chief among the contributors being Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hibbs, Brightlingsea; Mr. J. Custerson, Saffron Walden; Sir Cathbert Quilter, M.P.; Mr. S. G. Howard, prospective Liberal candidate for South Suffolk; Mr. C. Goodchild, Glemsford; Miss Tarrance, matron of the City Police Hospital, Bishopsgate; Mr. R. Marsh, Hawkedon Hall; Mr. C. Fincham, Swan's Hall; Mr. J. Slater, Stansfield Hall; Mr. C. W. Byford, Clare; Mr. W. Bird, Cavendish; Rev. J. Dinnick, Mr. and Mrs. Layzell, Mrs. Adams, Mr. C. Warner and Mr. A. B. Clarke, Sudbury; Rev. John Anderson, B.A., Saffron Walden; Rev. Mr. Todd, Stansfield; Rev. A. Hill, Bury St. Edmunds; Mr. H. J. Bignmore, Mr. G. B. Pickworth, Mr. G. Savage, Mr. S. W. Bigg, and Mr. A. Brett, Glemsford. The Sunday-school children denied themselves of their prizes this year, so that the money might go to the chapel fund. In justice it must be stated that the chief givers in cash, labour, and hospitality have been Mr. and Mrs. Watkinson and Miss Watkinson. All who have shared the shelter of "The Croft" will heartily endorse this testimony.

The entire cost of the premises, including site, is a little over £560. By subscriptions and the opening services £100 has been raised, so that with the amount originally in hand fully one-half of the cost has been obtained. The prospects are cheering, but it is necessary that the debt should be considerably reduced. Much and commendable sacrifice has been made by the members, who are for the most part poor people, and who show such a touching gratitude for any assistance they receive for their neat and sweet house of prayer. They have laboured under difficulties which would have swamped many other less heroic and loyal souls, and deserve all the help their more favoured brethren and sisters can render. However small, send it now, and keep them singing the Doxology. It will reach the treasury if addressed to Mr. E. Watkinson, The Croft, Glemsford, Suffolk.

GENERAL COMMITTEE NOTES.

Rev. J. Dobson presided at the General Committee last Friday when an interesting letter was received from the Presidents of the Wesleyan and the United Methodist Conferences respectively in acknowledgment of the fraternal greetings sent by the President of our Conference. An application was received and approved from Rev. James H. Briggs to join the R.A.M.C. during the period of the war, as also permission was given to Rev. James E. Phillipson to work in a munitions factory. After a lengthy discussion it was decided provisionally to sanction the sale of the Conference Hall, Birmingham. A communication was received from the Leeds District Committee stating that they had given consideration to the proposal to increase the minimum salary of ministers, and approved of it. The committee strongly deprecated sending such information on a postcard, and urged that more care and prudence should be exercised in transmitting official news from one Connexional Court to another. A letter was received from the executive of the National Free Church Council intimating the intention of their President (Sir J. Compton-Rickett, M.P.) to convene a meeting of the President and Connexional Secretary of each denomination on an early date to consider some important questions arising out of the war, and asking for our concurrence in the proposal. This was readily granted, and Rev. M. P. Davison was appointed to accompany our President, and should this result in a larger and more comprehensive conference being convened to consider these and other vital questions arising out of the present world-conflict, the President of Conference and Rev. M. P. Davison were authorised to appoint such other additional delegates as may be deemed necessary.

Rev. S. Horton raised the question as to whether before the autumn and winter came it was not desirable for the General Committee to give the Connexion generally some spiritual leadership. He ventured the opinion that many of our churches were passing through a trying ordeal just now, and this present occasion provided a great opportunity for the Church to take a step forward in its spiritual and redemptive work. He thought it wise at least that we should affirm the necessity for some great spiritual leadership. It was, therefore, decided to remit this and all other cognate questions to a special meeting of the sub-committee to be convened at an early date, and, if deemed necessary, the sub-committee was authorised to arrange for a special conference on these questions. The Connexional Fund claims were approved for payment, and it was resolved to suspend the meetings of the General Committee until September 10.

THE ROAD OF PAIN.

By Rev. Amos Ryder.

The road of pain leads away from the traffic of the world to the silences of God. But the silence is not felt when we first enter into the road of pain, for the sound of the tumult accompanies us, and, though out of action, we hope to answer the Roll Call in the morning. And as the pursuing noise beats back the silence, so does it deaden us to the presence of God. But even when the silence is felt, the patient at first is apt to call it emptiness, to regard it as the absence of all that has crowded his hours of strength. For the joy of the worker is to make every effort of body or mind express what dwells in his soul, and thereby augment the moral and material store of human kind. Therefore, because our work is the medium by which our personality ventures into the world, we usually regard suffering as a foe that deprives us of self-expression by a forcible separation from that work. And the road of pain, which leads from the office, the pulpit and the mart, has no beauty that we should desire it. So the cry of the stricken toiler has one refrain, "I will soon be back to work." This devotion to our "common round and daily task" is, in essence, an unconscious tribute to the spiritual meaning of life. And, though we are slow to believe, this partial sway of the spirit over "our poor brother the body" is a divine intimation that in the road of pain the soul may become as its Lord, a scourged king.

Was it Jean Paul Richter who said "Sometimes the bird keeps the cage up"? Yes, we learn to prize our limitations, for are they not also the limit of our responsibility? Also, we will keep the cage up; yea, none will want to take it down so long as we transmute our agony into song. For the world is covetous of melody and mirth. But the sweet singers of life have all been men of sorrows and acquainted with grief—

"Our sincerest laughter with some pain is fraught,
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought."

What superb courage has been revealed in the road of pain! Some have even dared to anoint their faces lest a curious world should find out that they were suffering. The sojourners in this road set a high value on a shining morning face. For with them it is a point of honour to imprison the horror of the sleepless night, and to greet the new day with a cheer. Yea, one Great Heart, whose name was Robert Louis Stevenson, was very bold, for he counted that day as lost in which he faltered in his great task of happiness. Writing to his father from Davos, he said, "And till you can see pleasure in these hard choices and bitter necessities, where is there any Good News to men? If you believe in God, where is there any more room for terror?" Thus, with uplifted head and swelling heart the painful warrior publishes the glad tidings "that morn shall tearless be."

Thus, then, is the lesson we must learn—that in the road of pain optimism and pessimism profit nothing. What does avail is faith, the conviction that "Joy is seeking us through pain." And joy can find him whom it seeks. For the soul can detach itself from the pain and anguish of the body. We can become spectators of our own suffering. And our afflictions lose their poignancy when we observe them. The stabbing pain is bent back ere it can lacerate our consciousness. The agony is drawn, or driven, to its local habitation, and forbidden to rack the whole frame. Thus, in spite of throb and pang the soul can put the body under tribute, and the toll which it exacts becomes the wisdom and the joy of life. For, though only one syllable of the mystery be deciphered, yet—

"Who telleth one of my meanings,
Is master of all I am."

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

Private George Mason, of Wingate.

On Sunday evening, July 18th, a memorial service was held in Station Town Church, Wingate. There was a large congregation. Addresses were given by Rev. C. Humble and Mr. W. Emery, who was George Mason's class leader. He was one of a group of four from Station Town Church who enlisted in the early days of the war. They joined the Royal Naval Brigade. They participated in the Antwerp sad experiences. One of the four, Tom Race, was interned in Holland. The other three escaped. Their military training was resumed, after which they were sent to the Dardanelles. George has fallen, and his body reverently buried. The other two have been wounded. In many respects Mason was a remarkable youth. As a Christian he was bright, cheery, and very thorough. He was really loved in his home church. In camps and trenches he witnessed in the same cheery, earnest way for Jesus Christ as at home. Wherever he went he wore his Endeavour badge, and that in no parading manner, but as a true expression of his own faith and conviction. The badge he wore at Antwerp is kept as a sacred relic by one of his young men friends in the home church. By the wearing of that badge he was discovered by Mr. Jenkinson in a midnight service. In other ways it secured friends for him, and some of those kept up a regular correspondence with him. He wore the badge to the last in the Dardanelles. He was the means of leading several soldier friends to faith in Christ, and to Endeavour membership. The writer supplied him with several badges for those converts. One of them is now in membership in Wingate Church. He was beloved, and he was needed, but the cruel war has taken him from us. His church and his friends share with his relatives the sorrow of his sad early death.

What Our Readers Say.

Ministers' Salaries.

SIR,—It is gratifying to know that at last the conscience of the Connexion is being aroused on the question of "Ministers' Salaries." For some years this question has been in the background, probably because a very large percentage of our circuits have faced the matter and settled it for themselves. I think that it will be found that only a small percentage of our circuits are paying the minimum salary. But some of us think that it is quite time that every minister of our Church had a salary upon which he could live, not in luxury but at least in comfort. As a Church we are not slow to make greater demands on our ministry. The Reading Conference has decreed that the standard shall be raised higher, and it is possible only the best men shall be accepted. Is it right for us to do this unless we are prepared to shoulder our responsibility? I hold that if our best sons are to respond we must make the way easier financially. What is the position? We compel our accepted candidate to go to Hartley College for three years' training; he has to pay his fees, dress respectably, etc., etc., and during this period his earnings are nil. After his college course he has to spend four years on probation at a salary of £15 or £16 per quarter. What is the result? Many a young fellow is financially embarrassed at the very beginning of his ministry, and consequently because of this worry of finance cannot give to his Church his best work. Is it right for us as a Church to act in this way? It would be quite a different thing if we could not afford to improve the financial position of those we call to serve us. As a Church we are no longer poor, to-day we are in a far better position to face this problem than ever before, we have more wealth than our fathers, and our chapel debts, thank God! are not so crushing. The time has come for the officials of all our circuits to give more serious consideration to this question. We need first of all to make the minister's salary the first charge on the funds of our Church, and not the last.

The men on our poorer circuits should have more sympathetic consideration. I hold that we ought not to build large new churches that cost thousands of pounds of missionary money until the men who are serving the Church heroically in the outposts of our Connexion are assured of a living wage. I quite agree that no probationer should have less than £20 per quarter, and no approved list minister less than £30 per quarter.—Yours, etc.,

N. CROMWELL HARVEY.

626, London-road, Stoke-upon-Trent.

SIR,—Being the originator of a profitable discussion upon the above subject in the Leeds Synod, I have read the letters appearing in your columns with interest. I desire to suggest to the leaders and officials of our Church that this is a subject for deeds not words. Why wait for legislation upon the matter. I have a motto which I pass on to all concerned—Do it now! That is, let our leaders who have been the recipients of a war bonus, or in the case of those who have reaped benefit by way of war profits, go to the forthcoming leaders' meeting, and Quarter Day, determined that the minister shall have a reasonable increase granted at the September Quarter Day. Many can help one when one cannot help many, and if class moneys were paid regularly the officials would have more in the exchequer wherewith to pay their way. This I have proved by observation.—Yours, etc.,

FRED RAYNER.

29, Littlemoor Road, Pudsey.

SIR,—It is an error to assume that our ministers belong to the working classes, and to compare their stipends with the wages current in the labour market, although in some respects their position is less favourable. The expenses of their household are, or ought to be, greater, while their household income (at any rate, in the North) is often less, and they have not the advantages of a trade union. They work neither by the piece nor by the hour, so that they cannot claim overtime pay, and the most conscientious attention to duty instead of securing them a superior and more lucrative position, frequently relegates them to a back seat, in order to make room for younger men. When one of our ministers claimed the privilege of a working man and sent his daughter to the factory, who were the first to protest? The people, of course, who insisted on applying this standard to him. But, in justice to our system, the ministers should be compared, not to working men, but to the more highly educated classes. The preparation we demand of them is long and fairly exacting. First, three years in the college, then three or four years on probation. At ordination every minister has a very respectable theological equipment. We ought not to overlook the fact that our ministers are probably better educated than the average clergyman of the Established Church with his poll-degree, and elementary theological training. Are they as well paid? Take the professions of law and medicine. A man in either of these callings may reasonably expect to make £500 a year. And in both cases the length of preparation may be less than what we demand. I do not think the argument that a minister ought not to take money from anyone poorer than himself is very cogent. No shopkeeper could run his business on such a principle.

Our ministers are underpaid. What is the result? Constant anxiety about money, irritation in the home crippling a man for work outside, total abstinence from social life dulling his mental powers and constricting his outlook, stringent economy even in such essential matters as books, and, an argument which appeals to every generous man, a life of hardship and self-denial, beyond what is right or good, for his wife. However much the minister may strive from an inner sense of duty to over-

come these disadvantages, they will inevitably revenge themselves on the Church which imposes them.—Yours, etc.,

NORTHERNER.

Choirs and Missions.

SIR,—I have pleasure in acknowledging through the *Leader* the following promises which I have received from our choirs during the past week, to help in raising funds to build the Kafue Institute:—Wheatley Hill, Thornley; Percy Main, North Shields; Stretford, Manchester 5th Circuit; Harwood, Bolton First; South Parade, Ossett; Pontefract; Zion, Bristol Second; Park Town, Luton Second; Rotherhithe, Union Road, London; Balham; Regent-street, Smethwick, Birmingham Third; Oxford-street, Blackburn Second; Lanehead, Westgate; Howden-le-Wear, Crook; Cleator Moor; Eastburn, Silsden; Primet, Colne; Newport, Salop. I am also especially grateful to the Glazebrook Choir, Leigh, who not only sent a cheque for £4 6s. 8d. for the Kafue Institute, but have also sent to Mr. Mayles, two-thirds more for the army work, which they have raised by their effort. I am anxious to have the promises from 1,000 choirs before the next quarterly meeting of the General Missionary Committee, and I have no doubt but the generous responses which I am receiving this will be accomplished. Very many thanks to the choirs who have already promised and helped us.—Yours, etc.,

SAMUEL HORTON,
Missionary Secretary.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

Revised Methods of Examinations.

In reply to a number of inquiries I desire to state, through the medium of the *Leader*, the constitution in relation to candidates for the ministry as revised by the recent Conference.

(1) *As to Candidates Themselves.*—For the next oral and written examination they will be examined on the subjects and books as stated in the General Rules of our Church, Nos. 367, 375, and 380. For the written examination of 1917, Gregory's "Theological Student," "The Marrow of Methodism," and Ransome's "Short History of England" are deleted, and Dr. Beet's "Shorter Manual of Theology," published by Hodder and Stoughton, and Carter's "Groundwork of English History," published by the University Press, are substituted. Both these books are obtainable at our Publishing House at 2s. 6d. and 2s. respectively. The circuit examinations will now take place in September instead of December, and such means as the District Committee thinks necessary "to test the fitness of the candidate" will be adopted between September and December. The oral and written examinations will be on the dates as stated in the Conference Minutes for 1915.

(2) *As to Circuits.*—Two forms are to be filled up at the September Quarterly Meeting, after the examination of the candidates, as per Rule 367. The new forms are to be used, which may be obtained from the General Book Steward about the middle of August. These are to be forwarded, along with the written sermon of the candidate, to the District Committee Secretary. Applications for any of the scholarships tenable at Hartley College must be sent with the other documents at the same time. (Note: important revision of Rule 367, questions 8 and 9, and the new question 18, as stated in the new Conference Minutes, published this week.)

(3) *As to District Committees.*—On receiving the documents from the circuits, after the September Quarterly Meetings, the District Committee Secretary is to bring the same before the next meeting of the District Committee for its consideration (see Rule 242, as revised last Conference). "The District Committee shall, by such means as it thinks necessary, test the fitness of the candidate, and, if satisfied, shall forward his testimonial, along with its findings, one to the member of the Candidates' Examining Committee of the District, and the other, with the written sermon of the candidate, to the Secretary of the Candidates' General Examining Committee, not later than December 24th."

The oral and the written examinations, except the number of oral examiners, are continued for the present year, as stated in Rules 372 to 386 of the General Minutes of our Church.

JOHN BRADBURY,

Secretary of the Candidates' General
Park-avenue, Blackpool. Examining Committee.

After Forty Years.

Sunday, July 18th, was a noteworthy day in the ministry of Rev. J. Teece, of Belper, who, on that day, celebrated his birthday, completed his fortieth year of active service in the ministry, and also celebrated on this day the second anniversary of his return to this circuit. The day's work commenced with a military wedding at 8.30. The bride and bridegroom both being members of the choir. Good congregations assembled morning and evening, when excellent services were conducted by Mr. Teece. In the afternoon the Friendly Society, Ambulance Brigade, and Boy Scouts, accompanied by bands, had their annual procession through the town, afterwards proceeding to our church, when Mr. Teece delivered an excellent address. The services were followed on Wednesday by a largely attended birthday tea service by the ladies of the church, and the minister was warmly congratulated by all on his threefold birthday. After tea Mr. Teece gave a very interesting lecture, subject, "From Coal Mine to the Christian Ministry," which was listened to with deep interest as he gave his audience a review of his life from the duties of the mine, and the difficulties to encounter in his efforts to prepare and qualify for the ministry. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Wilson, of Belper.

DESIGNATED FOR AFRICA.

Ordination of Rev. R. Cawthorne.

In connection with the visit of the General Missionary Committee to Sheffield the ordination of Rev. R. Cawthorne and his designation for further service in Africa took place in Abbeydale Church on Wednesday evening last. In the absence of Mr. H. J. Mein, Mr. W. Windsor presided, with Mr. J. Coward in the vice chair. The quiet, unpretentious deportment of the candidate made a favourable impression upon the audience. In relating his Christian experience and call to the ministry, his first testimony, he said, must be to the influences of the godly home in which it had been his privilege to be born and reared. His parents were most devoted Christians, and from his infancy they had trained him to love and serve the Saviour. The question was asked—did a child so reared need conversion? Well, there came a time when he felt that need, and at ten years of age a great change consciously came into his life. At seventeen he received a note of authority to preach, and was associated with his father in his first pulpit labours. His first intentions were to become a teacher, and for that profession he was training when the call to the ministry came to him. To that call he felt the response was imperative, and all the influences of home supported him in that decision. He regarded it as the greatest honour of his life to have been called to preach the gospel, and especially to bring the heathen to a knowledge of the Saviour. To this work he had devoted his life, and his supreme ambition was to aid in winning the world for his Master.

The ordination charge was delivered by the President of the Conference (Rev. J. D. Thompson), whose first word was one of congratulation to the candidate on having reached the position in which he stood. That service differed somewhat from an ordinary ordination, as the candidate's experience from entering the ministry had been on the mission field, and to that sphere he was returning. They claimed no rights by such a service to confer any special gifts or powers, but by public designation to give authority, inspiration and help in future work. By his address he wanted in a plain and practical way to offer some suggestions and councils for stimulus and guidance. He would use some of the outstanding characteristics of St. Paul's missionary work as the basis of his "charge." In the course of his travels they saw Paul coming into contact with the lives of men of various nationalities, degrees of rank and culture, social conditions and relationships, and his methods were suggestive of characteristics essential to all successful missionary labours. Tirelessness was one feature. Read the story of Paul's visit to Athens. He had gone there for rest after a period of strenuous labour and fierce opposition. But what happened? During a quiet walk he observed idolatry everywhere, and his spirit was so stirred that, in spite of weariness and exhaustion, he resumed his labours, and in the place where he sought repose he found a new sphere for his energies. This incident was significant. Temerity was another characteristic. With unflinching courage he faced hostile forces. In the presence of persecution and death nothing moved him, and his heroism was the product of his faith and love. Your position, too, will often demand a courage like that. His tenderness was always conspicuous. How courteous he was to his opponents! How careful not to offend their sensibilities and cause antagonism to his mission! He recognised their religious instincts indicated by the altar to an "unknown God." All missionaries will find a basis for their teaching in the religious sentiments and practices, crude and misguided possibly, of those to whom they have gone, of which a sympathetic recognition tends to disarm opposition and prepare a way for success. Paul's tactfulness was also instructive. He began his work with the people where and how he found them. With the Jews he reasoned out of their own scriptures, and with the heathen he began with their superstitions and idolatries. Contrast his methods at Ephesus and Athens. In one he confounds with miracles, in the other convinces by argument. Your work will require tact and resourcefulness, and is worthy of the highest qualities. Be brave and faithful, and win the Master's "Well done."

At the close of the address a beautiful copy of the Scriptures, the gift of Mr. J. Sivil, was presented to Mr. Cawthorne by Rev. J. R. Tranmer; and a copy of the New Testament in the Ila language was presented to the President by Rev. S. Horton, on behalf of the African missionaries, who are the translators and editors.

Rev. John Mayles followed with a valuable charge to the Church. He commenced by giving the candidate, on behalf the Church, an assurance of their satisfaction with his past services, and of confidence, prayers, and support in the work which he was about to resume. The attitude of the Church to the question of world-wide evangelism was a subject for earnest consideration. He feared that in some respects they compared unfavourably with some other Churches, and fell below the New Testament ideal of missionary sacrifice and service. He urged the necessity for a deeper sense of personal responsibility and a keener realisation of the world's needs, and more generous financial support, so that to the calls for an increased agency and a vigorous policy an immediate and adequate response might be given.

The ordination prayer was offered by Rev. James Pickett, and the meeting was greatly assisted by an excellent choir, which effectively rendered the anthem "How Lovely are the Messengers!" and Miss Florence Hoole, R.A.M., sang a solo with fine effect.

Miss Edna Parkinson, aged 11, and Master Clifford Jones, aged 11, both scholars in Whalley School, Hindley Circuit, have won scholarships tenable for four years at the Girls' High School, and Wigan Grammar School respectively.

Services and Preachers.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st.

BERMONDSEY, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, OLD KENT ROAD, S.E. 11, Rev. H. J. Taylor; 3.30, P.S.A. Fellowship, Speaker, Rev. J. Flanagan; 7.30, Rev. Jas. Flanagan.

BLACKPOOL, Chapel Street (facing the Central Pier). 10.45 and 6.30, Rev. John Bradbury. Thursday, 7.30 to 8.30, Devotional Hour. Visitors heartily invited.

BLACKPOOL, Central Road (Lune Grove). 10.45 and 6.30, Rev. J. Swales.

BRIGHTON, London Road. 11 and 6.45, Rev. S. Horton (Gen. Miss. Sec.). Visitors welcomed.

CALEDONIAN ROAD, N. (corner of Market Road). 11.30, Mr. L. F. Webb.

CAMDEN TOWN, N.W., King Street. 11 and 6.30, Rev. A. E. Calvert.

CANNING TOWN, E. (Mary Street, Barking Road). 11, Mr. Miller; 6.30, Mr. Turner.

CULLERCOATS. 10.45 and 6.30, Rev. E. McLellan (C.A.).

HAMMERSMITH, Dalling Road. 11 and 7, Rev. J. Holland.

HARRINGAY, Mattison Road. 11 and 6.30, Rev. M. P. Davison.

HARROGATE, Dragon Parade Church. 11 and 6.30, Rev. W. Younger.

ILKLEY, Leeds Road. 11 and 6.30, Rev. W. J. Tristram.

LEEDS NINTH, Meanwood Road. 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. B. A. Barber.

LIVERPOOL FIRST, Prince's Avenue Church. 10.45 and 6.30, Rev. Arthur T. Guttery.

MORECAMBE, Parliament Street. 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. E. Barrett (Camp Meeting).

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Central Church. 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. M. Johnson.

SCARBOROUGH, St. Sepulchre Street (off Eastborough). 10.30, Rev. W. S. Bosence; 6.30, Rev. G. T. Fawcett.

SOUTHPORT, Church Street. 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. J. T. Barkby.

SOUTHSEA, Central Hall, near King's Theatre. Bank Holiday Special Services. Return Visit of Miss Hetha Richards. 11 (Parade Service), Rev. Lewis Hancock; 3, Sacred Recital; 6.30, Sermon Recital. Monday, 7.30, Grand Concert Recital. Visitors always welcomed.

ST. ANNES-ON-THE-SEA. 10.45 and 6.30, Rev. A. J. Campbell, F.L.S. (C.A.).

SURREY CHAPEL, Central Mission, Blackfriars Road, S.E. 11 and 7, Rev. S. L. George; 3.30, Brotherhood.

WEST NORWOOD, S.E., Knight's Hill. 11, Mr. W. Tarver; 6.30, Rev. L. H. Wood. Visitors welcomed.

The President's Engagements.

Wymondham, July 31st, August 1st and 2nd; Exmouth, August 4th; Teignmouth, August 5th; Torquay, August 6th; Dartmouth, August 7th.

Connexional Evangelists' Engagements.

MISS PERRETT, Ystrad Mynach, Glam.

MR. J. B. BAYLIFE, Seaside Services at Silloth, till August 22nd.

Evangelists' Engagements.

MISS BOTT (Sister Ethel). Sister Ethel is open to book for Recitals, Sunday and Week-end Services. Open dates for Missions next Season: October 9th to November 4th, 1915; after February 19th, 1916.—Apply, 31, Chapel Street, Barwell, Hinckley.

MR. JAS. CAREY, Chilton-lane-ends, August 7th-9th.

MR. TOM HOLLAND, Tothill, August 14th-16th.

SISTER LILY, late South Yorkshire Mission. Open dates for Week-ends and Mission Services.—Address, Southwell Road, Rainworth, Mansfield.

SISTER ELLEN. Applications for Week-ends and Missions to be sent to 251, Lees Road, Oldham.

LONDON PRIMITIVE METHODIST COUNCIL.—Primitive Methodists removing to London will be directed to the nearest P.M. Church if some official of the church will notify Rev. F. Pickett, Newlands, 6, Kymberley-road, Harrow, Middlesex. The full London address must be given, which will be at once forwarded to the nearest minister of our Church.

Births, Marriages, Deaths.

NOTICES must reach the Office, 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C., by Tuesday morning. Terms: 30 words, 2s.; each additional 10 words or less, 6d. Marriages, reports of marriages, etc., must be accompanied by a prepaid notice.

MARRIAGES.

BROWELL-SHARP.—At Halthwhistle Church, July 21st, by Rev. J. E. Leuty, Charles William, second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Browell, Boldon Colliery, to Frances Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Job Sharp, Brookside, Halthwhistle.

KILBURN-TAYLOR.—At Rothwell, Leeds, July 24th, by Rev. W. G. Sotley, Alfred, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Kilburn, to Edith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Taylor.

PHILLIPS-BELL.—On July 19th, at the Primitive Methodist Church, Louth, by Rev. W. Mainprize, Rufus Phillipson, of Waddingham, to Ada Bell, of Louth.

SILVER WEDDING.

RINGROSE-SADLER.—At Saltburn Church, Yorkshire, by Rev. J. Alderson, on July 26th, 1890, Frederick Ringrose, to Ellen Sadler, both of North Skelton. Present address: 392, City-road, Sheffield.

DEATHS.

GLENDINNING.—On Sunday, July 18th, at Fartown Lodge, John William, youngest son of the late Alexander Glendinning, aged fifty-seven. For forty years a loyal member and official of the church.

SHARMAN.—July 19th, at Ivy Dene, Clowne, Mary Anne, the beloved wife of the Rev. W. Sharmar, aged seventy-five years. Interred July 22nd, in Clowne Churchyard. "Peace, perfect peace."

TUCK.—On July 23rd, at the Nursing Home, Salisbury, Abel James, the beloved husband of Sarah Tuck (née Dolman), of 138, Fisherton-street, Salisbury, aged sixty-nine years.

WELFORD.—On July 24th, at 75, Holdenhurst-avenue, North Finchley, after a few hours' illness, Harold Balil Welford, solicitor, the deeply-loved husband of Adolinda B. Welford and the younger son of the Rev. J. and Mrs. Welford, thirty-eight years of age. Winsome and manly in all his ways.

IN MEMORIAM.

BUSBRIDGE.—In loving memory of dear husband and father, Egbert Neame Busbridge, who was called to higher service July 31st, 1909. "For ever with the Lord."

KILVINGTON.—In ever-loving memory of John Charles, the dearly loved husband of Isabel Kilvington, London-road, Carlisle, who entered the Homeland July 24th, 1910. "We shall meet to part, no never, on the resurrection morn."

LONGSTAFF.—In ever-loving memory of the Rev. Christopher Longstaff, who passed away at Darlington, July 29th, 1914, aged sixty-two years. At rest.

Ministerial Changes and Engagements.

(Changes indicate that ministers named are leaving and are not engaged.)

Changes in 1916.

Rev. W. Ashby from New Wandsworth and Fulham, after four years, at close of probation.

Engagements for 1916-17.

Rev. J. Watkin from Birkenhead to Chesterfield First.
Rev. F. Pickett from Harrow to Church Gresley.
Rev. J. S. Francombe from Church Gresley to Wirksworth.

PERSONAL.

The Missionary Committee enthusiastically accepted the offer of the Sunday School Union Committee that the Sunday-schools should provide one of the urgently needed new huts for soldiers. It is proposed to erect the new hut at Richmond, Yorks. Now is the unique opportunity of the Sunday-schools to ally themselves with this movement. Rev. W. Spedding has already sent out circulars to every circuit sufficient to supply each teachers' meeting in each circuit with a copy, asking that the matter be taken up forthwith, and that each school be desired to raise, on an average, one penny for each scholar. The quicker this is considered, and the sooner action is taken, the better it will be. Quickness is the very essence of this need. An urgent appeal one Sunday will bring a response the Sunday following. Schools that act at once will render double service; and, rightly made, the appeal will not only interest the children, but also their parents and friends, and the response should be worthy the nature of the work.

We sincerely hope there will be a great "send off" to Rev. H. J. Taylor on Sunday and Monday next at St. George's Hall, Old Kent-road. On the occasion of the festival Mr. Taylor officially opens his campaign at the mission. The occasion is one of more than local interest. Our advertisement columns give full particulars of the attractive nature of the services. These are, however, but the means to a great and worthy end. Mr. Taylor is facing a situation full of great opportunities, and is assuming responsibilities of the weightiest character. He is doing this for us all, and London Primitive Methodists and visitors to the metropolis, wherever possible, should be present to show that, in taking up the remarkable work of Joseph Johnson, the Church accords to him the heartiest co-operation and help.

The note included in this issue from Rev. John Bradbury, the newly appointed secretary of the Candidates' Examining Committee, should be carefully read and retained for reference by all prospective ministerial candidates, as well as by those who may be officially interested in the candidates. The readjustments in method adopted by the Reading Conference will effect several important changes.

On Saturday evening, at his residence in North Finchley, London, the death occurred with startling suddenness of Mr. Harold Welford, second son of Rev. John Welford. The deceased gentleman was by profession a solicitor, and on Saturday morning he went to his office in the City, apparently in his usual health; but he had not been long there before he became so ill as to necessitate his removal home in a taxi-cab. Later in the day an operation was performed, but he never recovered consciousness, and passed away as stated above. Though only thirty-eight years of age, Mr. Welford had already attained a reputation as a writer on legal matters, and he seemed destined to win a high place in his profession. He was connected with our cause at North Finchley, and much sympathy is felt for his young wife, who is left with one child, as well as for his father and mother and brother, who were greatly attached to each other.

Dr. Ernest White, who a year ago was accepted for medical missionary work, and who, on the outbreak of war, with the full approval of the Missionary Committee, offered his services to the country, is still serving in the R.A.M.C. At the recent meeting of the Missionary Committee a communication was received from Dr. White placing himself entirely at the disposal of the committee. Dr. White was cordially thanked, and was desired to continue his urgent medical work in the Army.

Taking time by the forelock, the six Nottingham circuits, together with their neighbours, Ilkeston, Kimberley, Long Eaton, and Hucknall Torkard, have already appointed representatives on the Conference Arrange-

ments Committee. A large number of these came together on Friday evening, July 23rd, at Canaan Church. The following officers were appointed:—President, Rev. T. H. Kedward; vice-president, Councillor T. Barlow; secretary, Rev. G. E. Wiles; recording secretary, Rev. J. Prince; treasurer, Mr. J. Adams; financial secretary, Mr. S. Foxon. The above, with the officers of the sectional committees, will constitute the executive. At the next general meeting, on October 1st, committees will be appointed for the following purposes:—Hospitality, handbook and press, catering, public services, finance, missionary (with a ladies' section), railway, tram and postal arrangements, and music, etc. The conference of next year will mark the centenary of our Church in the ancient city of Nottingham. The attendance at this first meeting and the warm interest the business evoked indicate that the circuits concerned are prepared to do their best to deserve and achieve a great success.

After forty years' connection with Daisy Hill Church and School, Bolton, Mr. G. Croston has been presented with an illuminated address. Mr. Croston has been a teacher for forty years, has served as superintendent for an extensive period, has acted as society steward for twenty-five years, treasurer of the trustees for thirty-six years, and has been a class leader for thirty-nine years. Truly this is a remarkable record! His work at Daisy Hill has been of the most fruitful character. He is honoured and loved by those with whom he has toiled so long and so well. Although seventy-two years of age, he is still alert and vigorous, and possesses troops of friends.

We regret to learn of the death of Rev. Andrew Latimer, of Darlington. After a lengthy period in the active ministry, wherein he was universally loved and held a commanding position, he superannuated in 1904, but continued to render useful service. He lived to the ripe age of seventy-six. The funeral took place on Tuesday last. Rev. J. Dodd Jackson attending to represent the General Committee.

Rev. John Elliott, of Harrow, has recently celebrated the jubilee of his ministry. He commenced his ministerial career at Gateshead in 1865, and spent the larger part of his active service in the North. Though superannuated, he is still actively engaged in preaching, and on the occasion of his jubilee services preached twice in our church at Harrow.

Rev. E. W. Smith has been invited by the French Protestant Mission in Basutoland, South Africa, to become principal of their training institution at Morija. This is a very important institution, with about 200 students. Mr. Smith knows the work, as he spent there the greater part of his first year in Africa, teaching classes and learning Sesuto. As Mr. Smith is engaged as Chaplain to the Forces till next June, he cannot accept the invitation immediately; whether he will do so later is as yet uncertain.

The trustees of the will of the late Mr. Thomas Thornber, J.P., of Burnley, have decided to allocate a sum of £10,000 mentioned in his will for charitable purposes. Of this amount £1,500 is to be given to the Bethel trustees of the Burnley First Circuit, subject to a legacy duty of 10 per cent. A few years ago Mr. Thornber gave £500 to the circuit for the purchase of a manse.

Mr. Stephen Wood, who before he joined the forces belonged to Hockley Church, Nottingham, in a letter to Mr. Stephenson of the same church, writes:—"I often think of the good time I have had at Hockley, and hope and pray I may return. I have been through hell several times since I came out here, but I put my faith in God to see me through. I got my first baptism of fire at Ypres on the night of May 10, and it was a night I shall never forget. We were a draft of 120 going to join the battalion in the trenches. As we went through the town it was burning; one could see what a fine place it must have been before it was destroyed. The fine old cathedral was lit up on all sides, but we hadn't time to notice the things that were about us, as shells were dropping over the town. We didn't reach the trenches that night, as the battalion was relieved. We came back another way. It was a miracle how we got there and back without a man getting so much as a scratch. I have seen several destroyed churches, but in most cases of them the crucifix has been standing untouched by shot and shell."

Rev. J. S. W. Stanwell informs us that a number of orders for photo groups taken at Conference have as yet not been completed in consequence of a shortage of photographic materials. It is hoped that the orders will be executed in a few days.

Mr. H. J. Lucas, F.C.I., local preacher, of Bath, and managing director and secretary of the Yockney and Hartham Park Stone Company, of Cosham, Wilts, has just been elected a Fellow of the Secretaries Association, London, F.I.S.A. Incorporated Society.

Mr. Ernest Wilkinson, son of the late Rev. John Wilkinson, joined the colours some time ago, and is in training with the Sheffield Engineers.

Mr. Roland Smithson, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smithson, of Stockton-on-Tees, has passed the final examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. This is a fine distinction for one so young. He is a teacher in Paradise-row Sunday-school.

Miss Evelyn Snait, daughter of Rev. H. W. Snait, Scotter, has obtained a First Class Pass for pianoforte playing in the recent Intermediate Examination of the London College of Music.

Miss Iverna A. Ward, the daughter of Rev. W. Ward, Rhonda Circuit, has passed the Higher Local Examination (Advanced Senior) in Pianoforte Playing of Trinity College of Music, London.

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MARRIAGES.

On Saturday, July 24th a large company assembled at the Rothwell Church, Leeds, to witness the marriage of Mr. Alfred Kilburn, son of the society steward, and Miss Edith Taylor. Both bride and bridegroom are members of the choir, the bridegroom being the secretary. The service was fully choral, Mr. J. C. Harrison presiding at the organ. Rev. W. G. Soffley was the officiating minister. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Timothy Taylor, was attired in a dress of white duchess satin, covered with nixon and lace, and ornamented with pearls, and hat to match, and carried a sheaf of lilies. The bridesmaids were Miss Elsie Taylor, niece of the bride, and Miss Williams. Two little nieces of the bride, Misses E. Smith and A. Blackburn, were dressed in pale pink satin and carried pretty baskets of flowers. The bridegroom's brother, Mr. J. Kilburn acted as best man. The reception was held in the Council school. Numerous presents testified to the high regard in which both are held. The honeymoon is being spent at Scarborough.

Haltwhistle Church was the scene of a wedding of considerable local interest on Wednesday, when Pte. Charles W. Brownell, second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Brownell, Boldon Colliery, was married to Frances Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Job Sharp, of Haltwhistle. The bride has been a member of the church for many years and is well known. The church was crowded. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a saxe-blue face cloth costume and a black picture hat trimmed with an ostrich feather. She carried a sheaf of white lilies and wore a diamond ring, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Miss Jennie Sharp, sister of the bride, and Miss Linda Murray, Hetton. They wore grey costumes and black hats trimmed with pink roses. Each carried a beautiful bouquet and wore gold and amethyst brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Jack Potts, of Seaham Colliery, was best man, and Mr. F. M. Sharp, brother of the bride, was groomsmen. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. J. E. Leuty, and Mr. R. T. Mansfield presided at the organ. The service was fully choral, and the church had been prettily decorated for the occasion. A reception was held in the schoolroom, upwards of 250 guests being present. In proposing the health of the happy pair Mr. Leuty said he felt it an honour to have been the officiating minister where the bridegroom was dressed in khaki. The list of presents contained nearly 200 names, a number of whom resided at Rochester, North Tyne, where the bride had been district nurse for several years.

IN MEMORIAM.

Mrs. Sharman.

The Slaveley Circuit, and Clowne Church in particular, sustained a serious loss on July 19th, when Mrs. Sharman, wife of Rev. William Sharman, passed to the "Homeland." She was born at Mugginton, near Derby, seventy-five years ago, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Fearn, both of whom were loyal Primitive Methodists. Early in life she came under the influence of the ministry of Rev. J. Barfoot in the Belper Circuit, where she became a devoted member of our church. For nearly half a century she had loyally supported her husband in his work, and proved herself an ideal minister's wife. Her goodness was transparent, her devotion to her Saviour and Lord was deep and unswerving. She had exceptional literary gifts, and published a book of poems under the title of "Fern Fronda," which abounds in interesting items drawn from the scenes and events of early life. Some years ago she achieved much local fame by her poem on the Audley Pit disaster. As Sunday-school teacher and class leader she exerted an uplifting and ennobling influence. Up to the time of her death she was a class leader in Clowne society. The interment took place on July 22nd. The funeral service, which was largely attended, was held in Clowne Church, and was conducted by Rev. S. Bates, who gave a touching address on her character and work. The body was laid to rest in Clowne Churchyard, the committal sentences being read by Rev. S. Bates. Rev. J. Waugh, B.A., rector of Clowne, offered prayer. Much sympathy has been expressed with Rev. W. Sharman in his sore bereavement.

Mr. J. W. Glendinning.

Huddersfield Circuit has sustained a serious loss in the death of Mr. J. W. Glendinning, of Fartown Lodge, Huddersfield, youngest son of the late Mr. Alexander Glendinning, whose name finds a place in the Connexional History. He was managing director of Messrs. Glendinning Bros., Ltd., Tanfield Mills, Leeds-road, and was well known in the district. He was fifty-seven years of age, and practically all his life had been associated with the Northumberland-street Church, and was an earnest worker. He became a teacher in 1877, and as teacher, superintendent, or in some other official capacity served the church for twenty-five years, when poor health compelled him to relinquish a labour of love. He was a trustee of the Northumberland-street property, a representative on the District Committee, and for many years a trustee of Hartley College, Manchester, faithful in his attendance, and wise in his counsel. He was circuit steward for a period of ten years, and his kindness and generosity won the esteem of all the societies. He was a reverent Christian gentleman, loyal, faithful, and devoted to the service of God's house. He was a thorough Primitive Methodist, who loved his Creed, his Church, and her people, interested in her history, her ministry, and her work, and for her sake during forty years rendered distinguished official help. His Christian character made him a kindly and charitable master, beloved by his work-people. He was an affectionate brother and relative, making the happiness of all associated with him his first

care. He was artistic in temperament, a lover of music and singing, and a devout admirer and student of nature. He was a faithful and abiding friend—as many a minister will know—genial, cheerful, bright, and companionable, one upon whose judgment you could rely, and on whose word you could depend. He died on Sunday morning, July 19th, at home, after being taken with sudden illness on Saturday evening when visiting friends at Horbury. He was buried in Huddersfield cemetery on July 20th, the service being conducted by Revs. D. S. Lees, F. M. Ridge, and D. Bradbury. Mr. J. Brearley, J.P., represented the District. A memorial service was held on Sunday morning at Northumberland-street, conducted by Rev. D. S. Lees. The sympathy of church, circuit, and District goes out to the mourning family.

ELMFIELD COLLEGE.

Speech Day.

The annual distribution of prizes and certificates to the pupils of Elmfield College, York, took place in the gymnasium of the College, on Saturday, July 24th. On account of the war and the fact that many of the old boys are wounded and in places of danger the proceedings were much less formal than on previous "speech days," and only the directors of the school and the parents of the boys were invited to attend. Alderman Richard Fletcher, J.P., of Silsden, presided, and among those present were: Mr. Dyson Mallinson, Rev. A. T. Guttery, Mr. T. Fletcher, J.P., Mr. J. G. Marriott, Mr. E. Adams, Mr. J. Ickringill, Rev. R. Robinson, Rev. T. Oliver, Mr. S. R. Slack, B.A., and Mr. Oephas C Hartley.

Prior to the distribution of the prizes an excellent musical programme was contributed by the boys under the conductorship of the music master, Mr. Walton Batley, A.R.C.O.

Mr. Slack, in his report, said this was his eighth report, and was the most hopeful and encouraging of them all. Last December they were especially successful in the Cambridge local examinations. Ninety per cent. of the candidates entered were successful, and he should like to call their attention especially to the fact that twelve boys passed the Senior Cambridge, and that they gained seven distinctions in book-keeping, being the only school in the kingdom to obtain distinction in this subject.

Mr. R. Fletcher said that he was not going to depart from the request of the directors and the headmaster that the day should be quieter than usual. The boys who were leaving Elmfield that day for good should let the thoughts ring true and loud in their life through its whole course—justice, righteousness and fair dealing. The boys who were remaining should take to heart the very best that was set before them. He knew that was the best day of the term, and he knew their parents would be delighted to see them all. He did not want them to lose their trains that afternoon—(laughter)—and he would not detain them longer, but would ask Mrs. Fletcher to present the prizes.

After Mrs. R. Fletcher had presented the prizes, Mr. Mallinson proposed a vote of thanks to her, which was seconded by Rev. A. T. Guttery, who gave some sound and helpful advice to the boys.

Mr. J. G. Marriott proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, and called the attention of the boys to the record of the life of Mr. Fletcher one of successful endeavour, and how he had gained the confidence of his fellow men.

The gathering concluded by a resolution of appreciation of the headmaster and staff, moved by Mr. T. Fletcher, and seconded by Mr. E. Adams.

Ministerial Candidates and the War.

SIR,—Much has been said in your columns in regard to candidates for the ministry, but I have looked in vain for any raising of what appears to me to be a very important question. That is, the position of men who would have been recommended for the ministry but who answered the country's call and enlisted before the December Quarterly Meetings. There are several reasons why we ought to consider these men, but I will only touch one. It is a rule that any man over twenty-five years of age must gain "honours" or he will not be considered as a candidate for entrance into "Hartley." Now, there is one brave lad who went to the front just after Christmas who would almost certainly have passed the exams. had he remained to take them, but if the war finish this year in time for his circuit to recommend him where will this lad be? No man can study for exams. sufficiently to gain an honours standard when on active service, and the year added will (according to rule) mean that this man will have to attain such a distinction, or he will not be accepted. Even if one year will not make this difference men with two or three years to spare will be in no enviable position so far as preparation is concerned. Yet, if we lose men of this type we shall lose tremendously. The men who can keep the flag of purity and Christian honour flying while soldiers in the Army are, other things being equal, men who will adorn our pulpit and do credit to our Church. If we are going to call in eligible lay preachers, don't let these men be overlooked. It would be a poor payment for their patriotism and devotion if we left them stranded after the war.—Yours, etc., A. POULSON, Great Missenden, Bucks. I-Corp. R.A.M.C. (T.F.).

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THE KINGDOM TORN ASUNDER.

International Lesson for Sunday, Aug. 8, 1915:

1 Kings xii. 1-24. G.T., Proverbs xvi. 8.

By Henry J. Pickett.

LINKS OF HISTORY.—The external magnificence and growth of Solomon's reign was accompanied by a sure and increasingly rapid decline in everything that makes a nation truly great. The moral decay had already set in, when Sheba's queen passed her eulogy upon all she saw and heard. Internally, Solomon's popularity was waning even then. He had encouraged slave labour—especially from the people of Ephraim and the North, of whom Jeroboam was originally one. He had erected altars to the false gods of his many wives, and he passed out without any expression of regret (see 1 Kings xi. 43; 2 Chron. ix. 31). Already God had indicated His displeasure of Solomon's conduct by the word and deed of the prophet Ahijah living at Shiloh (see 1 Kings xi. 29-31). By this time Jeroboam, a youth of great sagacity and energy, had worked himself into a position of command, having influence as a leader among his own people. Going out of Jerusalem one day, probably on a visit to his widowed mother (Zeruah at Zoredah) he was met by Ahijah, who, taking off a new cloak covering his own shoulders, tore it into twelve pieces, giving ten to Jeroboam, saying thus and thus will the Kingdom be rent from Solomon and his house.

I.—Before Solomon died, signs of the coming disruption were manifest. Probably Ahijah, and certainly Jeroboam, had not kept the object-lesson of the cloak rending a secret, and Solomon sought Jeroboam's death (2 Chron. x. 2), resulting in the flight to Egypt under the patronage of Shishak, who, within five years of Rehoboam's reign in Jerusalem, had plundered the temple and robbed it of its golden vessels. Rehoboam, the only son of Solomon, succeeded to the throne in Jerusalem, B.C. 937. He was the child of Naamah, an Ammonitess princess, who worshipped Chemosh, probably known now for the first time to the nation, having been in the harem under the care of his mother. The men of the North, some of whom from the time of David had been jealous of the South, and particularly of Jerusalem, summoned an assembly at Shechem, between Ebal and Gerizim. Here they vented their grievances, and appointed a deputation with Jeroboam—who had returned from Egypt—as their spokesman.

II.—It was the opportunity of Rehoboam's life. All critical tests are a revelation of character. Then it is that secret loves are declared, and we publish abroad the preferences and companionships of previous years. *Tact, courage, and, above all, goodness*, would have choked rebellion, rallied the nation as a whole, and saved untold suffering stretching over centuries.

On the face of it, we mark shocking

Treachery to the Past.

alike in the manner and matter of Rehoboam's reply. Brought up by a heathen mother, his father so busily occupied in developing the external grandeur of the Kingdom, Rehoboam is largely to be pitied, and the probability is that he knew little or nothing of Israel's true God, nor of the earnest piety, courage, and glory of his grandfather David. All the same, the action and speech of the Young King—probably twenty-one, and not forty-one, as in 1 Kings xiv. 21—is so far from anything we should have seen in David's time, as to rather represent the court of an Eastern despot, than the gracious rule of a court called into existence by the universal loving God. Rehoboam's speech and manner is just that of an Eastern despot, or of a James I., or the present Emperor of Germany and the Prussian Nobles, holding still to the wretched theory of the Divine right of kings. Succeeding to such a throne and the guardian of such a temple and worship as that which now made Jerusalem the joy of the whole earth, Rehoboam should have sought the wisest counsel, and found out the best traditions of his house. (1) David's adviser was the wise and saintly Samuel. (2) David's care was the good will, the freedom, the growth of the people over whom he watched as shepherd. (3) David's supreme concern asked of God His will, and sought to get it done. In all three, the grandson denies the past, and refuses its guidance, with the inevitable results:—(1) Trouble in the present. (2) Difficulty for the future. The story is full of modern application for our young people.

History is one of God's wisest teachers. The world is now so old, and our access to its best treasures of character and achievement is so easy, that failure now is much more criminal than in the case of Rehoboam. We should inquire of the best people. We should heed the warnings of failure as well as the examples of true success, all the time remembering that we are trustees of past inheritances, not owners, handling sacrilegiously the good we have received.

III.—So far we have mainly considered the negative teaching of the lesson, what the Young King should have done, but failed to do. But he is more directly responsible for what followed. Vers. 8-14 are a permanent record and warning against

Willfulness and its Fruit.

The rebellion was not all on the side of the ten tribes of the North who revolted, proceeding forthwith to elect Nebat's son, Jeroboam the Ephraimite, as their king. Rebellion lay in the essence of Rehoboam's answer, and like begat like. Rebellion against the advice of safe, experienced, far-seeing men; against the instincts of humanity, which always knows tyranny and oppression of life to be wrong; against the whole history of the nation, themselves saved from the original serfdom of Egypt, and, above all, against Israel's God, whose visible symbol at Jerusalem

was the King's special care. Rehoboam is a standing warning to all young people who, ignoring advice, take the law into their own hands, and, trading on their own sense of strength, suppose that they can successfully smash through all law, Divine and human. There is no success that way. No single act of greatness, no achievement worth remembering stands to Rehoboam's credit. He precipitated a revolt he might have suppressed. He undid the slow growth of nearly one hundred years, splitting a nation asunder. He made possible the strife, disaster, captivity, and ruin which followed.

IV.—But, as always, where God is, there is seen here at work

The Mercy of Divine Restraint

saying to this wilful wickedness:—"Thus far shalt thou go, but no further."

The obedience recorded in ver. 24 is forced, and yields because of selfish considerations of safety, and is therefore of no virtue. All the same, it reveals the truth that God will not allow His ultimate victory to be imperilled. He has great designs concerning Judah. In that part of the Kingdom there are loyal lovers and witnesses, and the wholesale destruction Rehoboam courts is wisely prevented (vers. 21-24). This is the one truth which justifies and vindicates faith. It is our hope in these dark days of mad war. God's throne is in no danger, and always does He "restrain the remainder of man's wrath."

Guild of Kind Hearts.

TWO BOYS AT A FEAST.

Once upon a time there was a boy who brought great trouble upon his mother. His home was in an Eastern land, not far away from the city of Jerusalem. But he lived in a camp, where there were many tents, in one of which he and his mother lived. At the time of our story he was a big lad, big enough to be a real help to his mother. In that camp was another little boy, between two and three years old. This little boy's mother thought her boy the most wonderful boy in the whole world, and because he had grown big enough to eat the same food as grown-up folks eat, she made a big feast to show her gladness.

Everybody likes to go to a feast. You can have such a jolly time—plenty of nice things to eat, all the people very happy, all troubles forgotten—that you would never think of staying away if you got an invitation. All the family and the friends were having a jolly time at this feast in the camp. Nothing seemed to have been forgotten which could help to make the people happy, and when they had eaten as much as ever they wished some body got up to make a speech.

"We are all very glad to be here," he said, "and we congratulate our host and hostess on having such a fine little boy. He is not very big yet, but he is growing bigger, and we hope that some day he will be grown up—a fine, big man to succeed his father. We all join in wishing for the little fellow good health and long life and much riches, and everything he can wish to make him happy." And everybody clapped hands and shouted their agreement with the speaker. Then the little boy's father had to reply, and I expect he said something like this:

"My dear friends, my wife and I thank you for being here and for all your good wishes for our son. It is true that he is only small yet, but then all boys and girls are little at first. We thank God for giving us this little boy,

whose name, you know, is Isaac, and we are expecting him to grow up and be a great blessing and help to us. And we shall always remember this day, which will, we hope, be a day of gladness for you all."

But what about the bigger boy? He was there all right, but when he heard all this speechmaking and saw all the fuss that was being made about Isaac, he thought how silly it was, and he made fun of it all. We don't know what he said. Perhaps he made an ugly face, and said, "Fancy all this fuss about a little boy who is no more than a baby!" Anyhow, he made mock of it all, and when the little boy's mother saw him doing this, she became very angry, and as soon as all the guests had gone, she said to her husband: "You will have to send this lad and his mother out of this camp. She's only a slave-woman, and I won't have them living near me any longer. This lad and my boy shan't grow up together."

Her husband was very grieved, but in the night God spoke to him in a dream, and told him to let the slave-woman and her lad go away. He needn't be afraid, for God would watch over them and keep them from harm. I think God saw that if the two women lived near each other they would grow to hate one another, and teach their boys to do the same. So next morning the man gave the slave-woman some food and money and a lamb-skin full of water and sent her away. She had to go across many, many miles of desert before she could come to any town or village. It was a sad day for her, and her sadness was increased by the thought that all this trouble had been brought upon her by her own son. She had lived with these people for many years, and all her friends were in this camp. The lad had never meant to bring trouble to his mother, but you see he hadn't thought. He might have remembered that nobody really likes to be mocked and have fun made of them.

All this happened three thousand years ago, but you must watch and think, or else you may bring trouble to your mother. If you are at school, do your very best with your lessons. Attend to what your teacher says. Play fair. Be a true comrade to your companions. If you have started to work, be diligent and honest, so that your master may be able to say good words of you. Do in your mother's absence as you would in her presence, so that you can be trusted anywhere to do what is right and good.

(Read Genesis, chapter xxi. verses 5 to 14.)

Schoolboys' Howlers (Made at Examinations).

1. The South of the U.S.A. grows oranges, figs, melons and a great quantity of preserved fruits, especially tinned meats.
2. Prince William was drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine; he never laughed again.
3. There are five continents—*a, e, i, o, u*.
4. A circle is a line which meets its other end without end.
5. The tides are caused by the sun drawing the water out and the moon drawing it in again.

New Guild Members.

Per Mr. J. W. Heslop, Bardon Mill.—Seniors: 7719 Mary Agnes Lamb, 7720 Molly Lamb. Juniors: 7721 Willie Brown, 7722 Harry Brown, 7723 Teddie Brown, 7724 Frances Jane Lamb, 7725 Doris Mary Heslop, 7726 Edwin Graham Heslop, 7727 George W. Lamb, 7728 Willie Ridley, 7729 Willie Fred Lamb, 7730 Mary Ridley, 7731 Annie Graham, 7732 John Watson Dixon. *Well done, Henshaw S.S.!* 7733 Emily Kathleen Richardson, 7734 Maggie Rank, 7735 Florence Hilda Waite, 7736 John Rodney Waite, 7737 Alice Maud Waite, 7738 George Gordon Waite, 7739 Kenneth Williams.

New members received at any time. Any person may

join who will promise to make kindness a rule of life. Persons over sixteen years are enrolled as senior members. Send name, age and address. One penny stamp for each badge required, and an extra stamp for return postage.

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PRESSING TOWARDS THE MARK.

Endeavour Topic for Week beginning Aug. 1:

Phil. iii., 12-16.

The soul is not satisfied save when it is pursuing the eternal quest. Rightly regarded life is a divine adventure, and is overflowing with heavenly significance. To take this view is to gain a potent stimulus towards the best. The method of the quest has been set forth by Paul in phrases which are classical. The first is, "I count not myself to have apprehended." It is a warning against complacency, against self-satisfaction, against overweening pride. Humility is a first principle of the spiritual life. No matter what attainments one may have gained, humility can never be left behind. It is needed as much on the stainless heights as in the lowly valleys, for it is the promise of infinite progress. Finality and the dogmatism which it engenders are barriers in the way of human advance. There was a tendency with certain Victorian scientists to regard materialism as a completely demonstrated theory of the universe. They led the thinkers of their time into a *cul-de-sac*, from which we are only just escaping. The glory of our human life, both here and in the infinite future, is its lack of finality. To the spiritual mountaineer there is always a gleaming peak looming up further on.

"Forgetting those things which are behind," is another principle of the spiritual life. The memory of past failures and defeats can beget fears which become well-nigh unconquerable if they are allowed to overshadow our lives too long. Those who have obtained forgiveness in Christ Jesus may put away their unworthy fears. We have heard much of late about the necessity of preserving the "morale" of our troops. This somewhat untranslatable term includes one's mental state as regards spirit and confidence, and it is as necessary on the battleground of the soul as in the fields of France. We shall never lose it while we are "reaching forth unto those things which are before." "Reaching forth" is always an inspiration, for who can estimate the "things that are before"? Not one of us can do it fully or completely, but how it thrills the soul even to make the attempt!

"I press towards the mark" is the counterpart in life and action of which "reaching forth" is the complement in spiritual attitude. We must not make the mistake of supposing that the spiritual life is entirely an affair of aspirations and of intellectual advancement. It is completely bound up with our everyday existence, and is advanced or retarded by every deed, even those which are least considered. Life must be filled with a mighty determination, not with the narrow perseverance of the scientific specialist, who definitely limits himself to a small field, but with the wide-sweeping gaze of the general who marshals all his forces for the ultimate victory. The "mark" must be kept ever in mind. In the heroic story of Captain Scott and his brave associates it was the continual thought of the South Pole that was the driving force in all their tragic journey. We have a nobler destiny; let us press on!

Suggestive literature: The epilogue to "Asolando," R. Browning's last poem; Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus," Book II., the latter part of Chapter IX.; the closing passages of "The Choir Invisible," by James Lane Allen. WILLIAM DAW.

Church News.

A'iston.

An interesting service was held at Garrigill on Wednesday, July 14th, when a travelling bag and a purse of money were presented to Mr. F. N. Greenwell, who is leaving for the Halstead and Great Bardfield Circuit, where he has been appointed for twelve months prior to entering the College at Manchester. Mr. J. W. Armstrong presided, and the presentation was made by Mr. Isaac Armstrong on behalf of the members of the church and congregation. Messrs. J. F. Herdman and C. Armstrong spoke of the great service rendered by Mr. Greenwell in different departments of work. A number of gifts have also been tendered privately. His removal is a great loss to the church at Garrigill. Mr. Greenwell, in his reply, expressed heartfelt thanks for the kindness shown to him.

Barnoldswick.

Rev. Edwin de J. Horne received a cordial welcome to the circuit at a largely attended meeting held in the Belhel Church last Saturday evening. Mr. B. S. Butterfield presided, and extended to Mr. Horne a very hearty welcome in the name of the church and congregation. Mr. Riddihough and Mr. H. Weller also spoke Mr. Horne, in responding, said he came amongst them at a time that was exceedingly difficult. Success in church work was dependent upon mutual sympathy, forbearance, and the spirit of helpfulness, more than upon unanimity of opinion. According to the extent they were imbued

with this spirit in their relationship one towards another would their work prosper.

Barnsley First.

On July 15th a good company gathered in our Westgate Church to bid farewell to Mr. Arthur Baxter, who, at the request of Conference, is leaving to do temporary ministerial duty in the Canterbury and Whitstable Circuit prior to a three years' training at the Manchester College. Rev. R. Heppenstall presided, supported by Mr. W. Sykes (circuit steward), and Messrs. W. C. Shucksmith, Winterbottom, Bultitude, and Kitchen, who gave suitable addresses. On behalf of the circuit a selection of theological works were presented, and, on behalf of the Westgate Christian Endeavour, Miss L. Chadwick handed to Mr. Baxter a very useful present, and conveyed the well wishes of the Endeavour members. Mr. Baxter feelingly responded, and gave testimony of his indebtedness to his Sunday-school teachers, to whom he owed a debt of gratitude for his position that day.

Batley.

We have just completed our series of school anniversaries, and the results have given delight to all concerned. Batley (Wellington-street): Preacher, Rev. Geo. Welbourne; collections, £41. Gomersal: Preachers, Revs. T. Pearson Ellis and Thomas Dowson; collections, £7. West Audley: preacher, Mr. W. Warden; collections, £23 10s. Kilpin Hill: preachers, Alderman Harvey Robinson, J.P., and W. H. Childs, Esq., J.P.; collections, £10. The singing is always a great feature at these gatherings, and the various choirs have more than sustained their fine reputation.

Blackburn Third.

On Saturday, July 17th, a public welcome was accorded Rev. A. MacDonald at the Great Harwood Church, in which friends from Rishton Church took part. After tea a public meeting was presided over by the circuit steward, Mr. J. E. Perry, when a hearty welcome was given to Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald. Mr. A. Dean spoke on behalf of Great Harwood Society, Mr. J. Cadman for Rishton Society. Rev. A. MacDonald thanked them for the kind way they had been received, and for their welcome. The Great Harwood Church was in attendance, and gave two anthems in an able manner.

Clayton-le-Moors Church has just installed the electric light at a cost of £31, the whole of which has been raised.

Bournemouth Second.

On Wednesday, July 14th, Rev. S. E. Mowforth, late of Bedford, was accorded a public welcome in the Winton Church as superintendent of the circuit. Mr. Corbin Harris presided, and the new minister was welcomed by Rev. F. Leadley and Messrs. G. Dean and W. C. Blandford on behalf of the circuit churches, Rev. J. Murgatroyd, B.A. (President, Bournemouth Free Church Council), on behalf of that body, and Mr. J. I. May for the Winton Congregational Church. An unusual feature of the meeting was the presence of the departing minister, Rev. Fred. J. Hopkins, who had remained to welcome his successor before proceeding to Great Yarmouth. Mr. Mowforth very fittingly replied. Thanks to those who had helped were voiced by the circuit stewards, Messrs. F. Newman and J. W. Ford.

Bristol.

The Endeavourers of the Essex-street Church report great success in their first "Endeavour Day" effort. Sunday, July 11th, was a splendid day. In the morning Bro. Bailee preached. All received a blessing. Another good time was experienced in the evening, when Rev. A. Sutcliffe preached an inspiring sermon. In the afternoon a musical service was well attended. Miss Lulu Turner sang two solos, Miss Cissie Sutcliffe recited, the male voice party rendered two pieces, and the chairman (Mr. W. Phillips) gave a fine address. Thanks to the work of the society and the gifts of friends, a good supply of sweets, fruit, cake, etc., has been sent to a local hospital.

Burslem.

Successful services have been held recently at Sneyd Green in connection with the new school premises. Following on the stone-laying ceremony held in April, special sermons were preached on Sunday, July 4th, by Rev. F. H. Edwards. The reopening services were continued on Thursday, July 15th. The door was opened by Mrs. E. Broad, of Tunstall, who in a neat little speech said that it had been the joy of her husband and herself to work so many years for this little society. They were now thankful to see some fruits for their labours. A special service was held, presided over by Mr. A. Bourne, when Rev. H. Smith, of Nantwich, preached in the unavoidable absence of Rev. A. Jackson Smith. A public tea followed. In the evening Mr. Wilson Smith (Hanley) presided over a successful concert given by Mr. H. W. Rogers and family, of Wolstanton, and Rev. J. W. Hailwood. During

the evening Rev. F. H. Edwards stated that a total of £146 had been raised, which included a handsome donation from the Shelton Coal and Iron Company. It is anticipated that a tile-laying ceremony to be held shortly will meet the remainder of the cost, so that within the course of a few months the school will have been rebuilt and fully paid for.

Cardiff First.

An interesting and unique silver wedding celebration was witnessed at Dalton-street on July 21st. In response to Mr. C. J. and Mrs. Young's invitation, a large company gathered for a tea, well provided and beautifully spread. Though ample provision had been made, a second sitting was necessary. The evening's entertainment was of a high order, and engaged a variety of talent. Three of the fathers of the Church, on behalf of the circuit, presented the host and hostess with a silver-plated and inscribed fruit dish, and Rev. J. Lewis Williams presented a Sunday-school diploma to each for thirty years and twenty-six years respectively of untiring service. Mrs. Youngs suitably and graciously replied. Mr. Youngs sprung a surprise upon all by presenting to Dalton-street trustees a cheque for £10 towards a church piano. Our friends have been unswerving in their loyalty to our church, and unstinted and untiring in their service. Mrs. Youngs for some years has been president of the Junior C.E., president of the Sisterhood, vice-president of the Cardiff Women's Missionary Auxiliary. Mr. Youngs is a most acceptable local preacher, a well known Endeavour enthusiast, and is serving his third consecutive year as president of the Cardiff Endeavour Union; for some years he has held the office of circuit steward, president of the Senior C.E., and has rendered manifold and invaluable service to the church. Congratulations and best wishes were showered upon them.

Severn-road School anniversary just held proved a remarkable success. Sermons by Rev. J. G. Ferriday, of Bristol, were much appreciated. A demonstration by scholars and Band of Hope members was highly gratifying. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. L. Shenton, an old scholar and former superintendent. Finance—double last year—formed a record for many years.

Chesterfield Second.

Rev. W. J. Musson commenced his ministry on July 18th at Mount Zion Church, preaching to good congregations, and speaking at a flower and egg service in the afternoon. The gifts were afterwards taken to the hospital. On Wednesday, July 21st, a public reception meeting was held. Mr. S. A. Johnson (circuit steward) presided, and addresses of welcome were given by Messrs. J. Harvey, G. A. Edwards, D. Cole, J. Webster, P. Kirby, and W. Marsden. Rev. W. J. Musson suitably responded. Mrs. Siddall contributed a solo, and a number of scholars gave a flag drill and an action song. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the church. The room had been tastefully decorated and arranged by Mrs. B. Kenyon.

Douglas (I.O.M.)

Buck's-road Society has just been favoured with a visit from the President of Conference. Those who had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Thompson on Sunday, July 18th, will not readily forget the timely and helpful sermons delivered. On the Monday evening Mr. Jos. Cunningham presided over a very representative gathering, when Mr. Thompson lectured upon "The Christian Conscience and the War." It had been intended that questions should follow the lecture, but the lateness of the hour precluded this possibility. The net financial proceeds of the visit is about £15.

Quine's Hill School anniversary services were held on Sunday, July 18th, in a field, kindly lent by Mr. E. Quine, Ballig. The singing was splendidly led by a choir from Douglas. Mr. J. Lowe presided at the harmonium, and Mrs. Stephenson and Miss Skillicorn sang a duet with much effect. Rev. D. Oakley was the special preacher. The collections amounted to 27 7s. 8d.

Dover.

The school anniversary services were held at London-road on Sunday last, when the preachers were Mr. H. Wakefield and Rev. W. W. Goldstraw. In the afternoon a demonstration, entitled "The Crown of Life," was rendered by the children, who had been splendidly trained by Mrs. S. Lewis. Mr. A. Jones presided. The demonstration was repeated on Monday evening, when Mr. S. Lewis presided. Again there was a good attendance. Addresses were given by Mr. Wakefield

and Rev. W. W. Goldstraw. Financial proceeds very satisfactory.

Falmouth and Truro.

On Friday a very successful "Conference of Christian Workers" was held. Local preachers, Christian workers, and others interested in evangelistic work from the various churches in the District met in the Penryn Church. The subject of the conference was twofold: (1) "The Supreme Aspects of Christian Work in War Time," (2) "The Supreme Qualification for the Christian Worker in War Time." Mr. J. Houghton (colporteur, of Falmouth) gave a paper on "The Supreme Aspects" and Rev. R. W. Brown, of Truro, opened the discussion. Mr. J. J. Collins (United Methodist) gave a paper on "The Supreme Qualifications," and the discussion was opened by Evangelist F. R. Myatt (of Falmouth). Rev. Herbert P. Ellis presided. The meeting proving so successful, it was decided to hold another three months hence at Falmouth.

Fleet, Hants.

We held our annual camp meeting on Sunday, the 18th inst., and had a great day, for Lance-Corporal Albert Shakesby was with us. At our parade service in the morning 100 soldiers were present. Mr. Penny (Basingstoke) preached, and Mr. Shakesby sang a solo. He also led in prayer, and gave another solo in the afternoon. Mr. Willis (Sheffield) and Mr. Appleton (Oakley) being the preachers. In the evening Lance-Corporal Shakesby took the service, and had a mighty time. He drew an immense crowd, and held them whilst he told the power of saving grace. There are many pleasing things in connection with our work amongst the soldiers. A few Sundays ago a bright young fellow, whose father is Mayor of one of our Midland towns and a local preacher, walked fourteen miles so that he might spend the last Sunday night in England in a P.M. Church, for he was off to the Dardanelles on Monday. He had previously been billeted here. Another young fellow who was in training here, but is now in France, sent a money order a few days ago to help on our work; whilst another one, still with us here, has renovated the mission room in which we hold our parade service on Sunday mornings. He has also made us some substantial forms, and in many ways rendered good service.

Gateshead.

On Tuesday the girls of the 2nd Gateshead Company of the G.L.B. connected with Prince Consort-road Church presented their late Captain, Miss Mary E. Johnson, with a gold wristlet watch on her leaving to take up duties in a military hospital. Mr. R. Bowran, J.P., made the presentation. Miss Johnson is a member of the St. John Ambulance Association, being connected with the Novocastran Nursing Division.

Gateshead Second.

A great welcome was accorded Rev. J. and Mrs. Jopling at Prince Consort-road Church on Saturday. The Circuit Steward presided. Letters of apology were received from the Rector of Gateshead and Rev. S. Palmer. Amongst those on the platform were Revs. Henry Yooll and Wm. Golley. The Free Church Council was represented by Rev. J. Gilmour, B.D., who offered prayer, and Rev. W. J. Walkley, who gave an address, while Gateshead First Circuit had a worthy spokesman in Rev. W. Dawson. Two of the members of our renowned choir rendered solos. Mr. Tom Johnson spoke on behalf of the churches, and he succeeded from the start in lifting the gathering to a high level. Mr. John Hewitt spoke on behalf of the Sunday-schools. Mr. G. E. Sutcliffe spoke on behalf of the local preachers. Rev. W. Rowson, on behalf of the First Circuit, and Rev. J. Fitzpatrick, as a colleague, gave characteristic speeches, and Rev. J. Jopling made a fitting reply to the hearty welcome. Refreshments were provided by the circuit steward (Mr. T. J. Grainger) and Mrs. Grainger. The musical arrangements were made under the care of Mr. O. S. Bowran. The gathering was an indication of the interest of the circuit in the coming of Rev. J. Jopling, and was a most pleasing commencement of his ministry on the station.

Glazebrook.

Our Glazebrook Choir honoured its promise to support the Kafue Institute by rendering Stainer's "Daughter of Jarius" on Sunday, July 18th. It had also been agreed to forward a substantial grant to the Connexion Army work requirements from the proceeds of this effort. The choir had been well trained by Mr. James Hudson, and rendered the cantata in the afternoon with

great credit. Mr. R. Allen presided. Miss Ratcliffe officiated at the piano, and the soloists were Miss Allen and Messrs. T. Bate, J. W. Pimblett and T. Baguley. A musical service was held in the evening. Rev. W. Cooper gave expository addresses on the various items. The day's services were crowned by a memorable prayer-meeting. After paying all expenses about £13 remains, two-thirds of which will go for Army work and one-third for the Kafue Institute. The singing is not only helping these worthy institutions, but blessing our own people.

Goudhurst.

School anniversary services were held at Horsmonden on July 18th, conducted by Rev. H. D. Mabey, a former minister, who has been appointed for a second term of service on the station. The school was commenced during Mr. Mabey's former ministry, and, under the efficient and skilful guidance of Miss M. M. Larkin and her band of willing helpers, has steadily grown to over sixty scholars. The work of Miss Larkin and her helpers among the children is of priceless value. On Wednesday, July 21st, the annual treat was given. After an excellent tea the annual meeting was held, the minister presiding. The addresses and the singing of the children were greatly enjoyed.

Gravesend.

On July 7th and 8th a very successful bazaar (called the Allies' Bazaar) was held, being opened the first day by Mrs. J. H. Jackson, and the second day by Miss Alder. The stalls were dressed in the colours of the nations they represented, and realised the following amounts: Great Britain (needlework stall), £12 19s. 6d.; Russia (refreshment stall), £6 2s. 6d.; France (men's stall), £5 15s.; Belgium (Shorne stall), £7; competitions, etc., £2 11s. 1d. Donations, per Rev. G. Sutton Road, including £2 2s. by Miss Alder, £1 1s. by Mrs. Jackson, £1 by the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Darnley, and £1 by Mr. H. George, amounted to about £14. When expenses are deducted the trustees are able, with Sir W. P. Hartley's kind and generous contribution of 20 per cent. on all raised, to reduce the debt (£445) on the Darnley-street property to the extent of £50.

Heckmondwike.

The school anniversary services were held on July 18th, when sermons were preached by Rev. T. Dowson. In the afternoon an address was given by Mr. H. P. Bridges. The church was crowded, great numbers having to go away unable to gain admittance. The offerings reached the handsome sum of £50 3s. For twelve years in succession (with one exception) has the minister on the station preached our anniversary sermon. The singing of the children was very much admired.

Horsham.

On July 4th farewell services were conducted by Rev. H. D. Mabey, who has been appointed for a second term of service on the Goudhurst Station. During his ministry in Horsham Mr. Mabey has made numerous friends in the town, many of whom were present in the large congregation at the evening service. The Horsham Company of the Boys' Life Brigade were on parade. Regret was expressed at Mr. Mabey's departure from the town.

Jarrow-on-Tyne.

On Saturday, July 17th, representatives from the churches of the circuit gathered in the Ellison-street Church to welcome the newly appointed junior minister, Rev. J. Palmer. Rev. Geo. W. King presided. An address on "Mission Bands and Revival Campaigns" was given by Mr. Jacob Bamborough, which was followed by a profitable discussion. About 200 sat down to a splendid tea. The evening meeting was presided over by the circuit stewards, Messrs. J. J. Cuthbert and M. Potts, who both extended a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Palmer. Brief addresses were given by Messrs. C. Reavley, Geo. Scott, W. J. Franks, A. Clayton, J. Bamborough, J. Welsh, Jos. R. Elliott, M. Scott, J. Harrison, T. Smith, B. Handy and Rev. Geo. W. King. A pleasing little ceremony was performed by Miss L. Reed—the presentation to Mrs. Palmer of a very beautiful bouquet. The Rev. J. Palmer suitably replied.

Kilburn.

At Kilburn Church on Sunday, July 18th, Rev. T. H. Champion, who is succeeding Rev. G. Shapcott, preached to good congregations, and on Monday a circuit meeting was held, presided over by the circuit stewards. Musical items were ren-

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dered by the choir, and addresses of welcome given by Rev. W. J. Price and representatives of the churches, and responded to by Mr. Champion. Mr. Pinhorn responded for his daughter, Mrs. Champion. A telegram from Mr. Shapcott wishing his successor God-speed was read.

Leeds Sixth.

On Wednesday, July 21st, a splendid company gathered in the Southfield Schoolroom to welcome Rev. S. S. Henshaw and the Misses Henshaw to the circuit. Mr. John Sunderland led the assembly in prayer. Mr. W. W. Turner presided, and in a happy speech gave a good tone to the meeting. Refreshments were served during the evening, and a large choir, under the leadership of Mr. William Briggs, with Mr. E. Tempest at the piano, delighted the meeting with their singing. Mr. H. Foster, Mr. T. Jeffries, and Mr. Arthur Briggs, in speeches of good taste, made reference to the spiritual and financial prosperity hitherto enjoyed by the circuit, and were full of hope for the future. The Revs. E. Barrett and C. T. Bishell, in felicitous terms, joined in the welcome. The response of Rev. S. S. Henshaw was most appropriate and well received.

Leicester.

On the 6th inst. Mr. James Hartshorn presided over a delightful meeting of the members of Hinckley-road Church, to which Rev. D. and Mrs. Sheen had been invited. Spiritual testimonies were borne, in which gratitude for Mr. Sheen's ministry was expressed. Mr. C. Parkinson, on behalf of the members, presented Mr. Sheen with a valuable easy chair and Mrs. Sheen with a beautiful flower vase. Both warmly thanked their many friends for this spontaneous expression of their loving esteem. On Wednesday, July 14th, twelve Sunday scholars of Mow Cop Sunday-school attended their first class meeting in response to an appeal by Rev. Danzy Sheen on the previous Sunday to decide for Christ and join the church.

Leominster.

The Sunday-school festival, held on July 18th and 19th, was a great success. The musical portions were very enjoyable. These included "Gently Sighs the Evening Breeze," by a local composer. The preacher was Rev. A. H. Kynaston, of Ludlow, whose services were very helpful. At the Young People's gathering on Sunday afternoon, Alderman J. Farr, J.P., presided, and the Mayor presided over the public meeting on Monday evening. There were full congregations at all services. On Sunday evening several failed to obtain admission. The collections were in advance of last year.

Lincoln First.

A meeting was held in the High-street Church on July 21st to welcome the new second minister, the Rev. P. W. B. Oliver. At 4.30 about 200 partook of an excellent tea. A large congregation gathered at the public meeting, many friends from the country having come by wagonette and cycle. Representatives from the societies in city and village spoke words of cordial welcome. The chairman were Messrs. C. T. Drake and R. Horton, who gave a fine tone to the meeting, and all the other speakers followed on in the same happy vein. A pleasing feature of the gathering, and which contributed no little to its success, was the splendid singing of the united choirs of the city churches.

Liverpool Third.

Rev. N. M. Cuthbert was the preacher at the Everton-road school anniversary. Special singing was rendered by the scholars and church choir, under the able direction of Mr. A. E. Caton, whose brother officiated at the organ. A floral and rally service was very attractive, and responses came from each branch of the church's work. Mr. J. Cooper was chairman, and Mr. F. V. Williams called the roll. At the public meeting cheering reports were given by the secretary and treasurer (Mr. J. A. Clark and Miss H. Kinnish), and speeches were given by Revs. N. M. Cuthbert, O. F. Hill, and J. W. Waddell. Congregations were excellent, and the results £41, for which we praise God.

The annual floral services were held at Zion on Sunday last. Preachers, Mr. M. Jones and Rev. J. W. Waddell. A musical service was held in the afternoon, and on Monday Mr. Waddell lectured on "The Emerald Isle and its Memories." Irish melodies were sung by Mr. Qualbrough, Mrs. Matthews, and Mr. R. Spencer. Chairman, Mr. E. Williams. The floral decorations were very nice, and the proceeds were for the scholars' annual treat.

Loughborough.

The school anniversary services at Nottingham-road Mission Hall were held on Sunday, July 11th, when the preacher was Rev. Arthur Jubb, of Sheffield. On Monday a musical service was held, when Revs. A. Jubb and J. T. Ecob gave interesting addresses. Action songs were also given by a number of scholars. Mr. H. F. Young presided. The hymns were beautifully rendered by the children and choir, and great credit was due to Mr. Joseph Brooks (conductor), Miss Elsie Thurman, L.L.C.M. (organist), Miss Elsie Cripps and Mrs. C. Lacey. Proceeds, £54 5s.

Manchester Eighth.

The school anniversary at Chorley-road, Swinton, was, notwithstanding the war and the absence of most of our young men, both in size of the congregations and the amount collected, a record. It was an occasion of much enthusiasm. Sermons were preached by Rev. P. MacPhail, a former minister of the circuit, and Rev. A. E. Reavley. Under the leadership of Mr. Healey the singing of the children and choir was a splendid success. Mr. Harold Barnes, A.V.C.M., the organist, gave unsparringly of his fine talent. Miss May Healey sang to the delight of the congregation. The amount collected was £50, being an advance of £10.

Morecambe.

Miss Richardson, from the Oron Mission, West Africa, visited Parliament-street Church on Sunday last. Her helpful and inspiring messages were much enjoyed by large congregations. Our best wishes and prayers will follow our sister in the work in which she is engaged and to which she has devoted her life. For the spiritual and financial success of the day we give God the praise and glory.

Norwich Second.

Cowgate-street Church anniversary services were held on the 17th, 18th, and 19th. A garden fête and sale of work at Clare House was seriously affected by the stormy weather. Some of the Welsh soldiers attended and rendered splendid service at the evening concert. The services on Sunday were well attended. On Monday Mr. Herbert Goss gave an eloquent recital, assisted by a few friends. Mr. W. Edward sent £2 2s. A welcome was given to Rev. O. H. Sheldrake, Mr. W. J. Knights, in an apt speech, speaking for the circuit. Mr. Sheldrake's response showed that he had already realised the greatness of his task, and that he intended to do his best for its fulfilment.

Nelson-street Church held a bazaar on the 24th. Mr. W. E. Howard presided at the opening ceremony, and Mrs. Howard declared the sale open. Under Sister Anne's direction the friends had prepared a good supply of goods. Proceeds over £16.

Nottingham First.

The Rev. A. Parkin commenced his ministry here on Sunday, July 11th, under auspicious circumstances. The services on the Sabbath were characterised by rich feeling and a high spiritual fervour. Good congregations gathered to welcome him at each place on the station. On Monday, July 12th, a garden party was held at "The Pleasance," kindly lent by Sir Jesse and Lady Boot. There was a large attendance, each place on the circuit being well represented. The financial results were excellent. There is every prospect of a gracious work of grace on the whole circuit.

Ramsey (I. o. M.).

Rev. Geo. and Mrs. Davies have just completed a most successful term of service. The esteem in which our friends are held on this station was evidenced by the splendid attendance, and the number of presents received, at their leave taking. The Ramsey Society presented a silver kettle and stand with spirit lamp suitably engraved, also two silver pewter flower stands. Regaby Church presented a beautiful silver pewter rose basket. Numerous other gifts have also been received. Mr. and Mrs. Davies have left the circuit with the best wishes of all.

Reading.

The London-street School anniversary was held on Sunday, July 18th. Sermons were preached by Rev. John Carter, who has just commenced his ministry in the circuit. In the afternoon a Young People's service was held. On the Monday the annual tea was well patronised. Mr. J. H. Knight (Baptist) presided over the public meeting, when addresses were delivered by Revs. A. Price Hughes, J. A. Alderson and J. Carter, and recitations and solos rendered by the scholars. The hymns were wisely selected by the superintendent, Mr. T. Waite, who also conducted. The

balance-sheet, read by Mr. J. Rullard, secretary, showed that about £30 had been raised, which is considered highly satisfactory.

The circuit garden party was held in the beautiful grounds, "Hillside," the residence of the mayor. A sumptuous tea was provided by the circuit steward's wife, Mrs. H. C. Smith, assisted by several ladies. In the evening a public meeting was held on the lawn under the presidency of Mr. W. Franklin. Addresses of welcome were given to the new minister, Rev. J. Carter, by Messrs. Rozier and Coling and Rev. J. A. Alderson. Mr. Carter suitably replied. The whole arrangements were carried out in perfect manner by Mr. F. W. Drew, junior circuit steward.

Rochdale.

On the removal of Rev. G. and Mrs. Rennison to Lydbrook, the young men of the Smith-street Church took the opportunity to present to Mr. Rennison a gold-mounted walking-stick as a small token of their appreciation of his work amongst them. The Women's Own also presented Mrs. Rennison with a silver fruit-stand. The presentation was made by Mrs. Fairhurst, who spoke very highly of the work of Mrs. Rennison amongst the women of the church. Miss Lucy Rennison, who had been a teacher in the Primary department for three years, also received some gifts from the scholars and teachers of that department. Other gifts from private friends proved that they left the circuit with the best wishes of many friends.

Selby.

In recognition of the completion of twenty-five years spent in the ministry, special services were held on Sunday, July 18th, when Rev. F. E. Thistlethwaite preached to good congregations. At the close of the evening service the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. As a token of gratitude, and to mark the fact that Mr. Thistlethwaite was ordained at Selby District meeting twenty-one years ago, he now presented to the Selby Society a handsome polished oak individual communion service, with silver-plated filler. The gift was received on behalf of the church by the society stewards, Messrs. R. Brewins and J. H. Carr, the latter of whom spoke words of appreciation of the gift, and expressed good wishes for the future of Mr. Thistlethwaite's ministry.

Sheffield.

The anniversary celebration of the John-street Sunday-school commenced on Sunday, the 18th inst., when three services were held. Mr. T. R. Watkinson, of Grimsby, was the preacher morning and evening, and in the afternoon a service was conducted by Rev. A. Jubb. On Monday a public meeting was held, when Mr. F. Myers, of Walkley, presided, and addresses were given by Mr. Watkinson and Rev. A. Jubb. Mr. Watkinson's visit will not soon be forgotten. The power of his addresses made a deep impression. Every service was a feast of reason and grace. Sanctified common sense provided the meal, and wit and humour supplied the condiments. The burden of his message was "There is a lad here." The "boy" was everywhere, a concentration of infinite possibilities, the development and direction of which were the problems of the home, the nation, and the Church. An enlarged choir, conducted by Mr. C. F. Gill, and assisted by an excellent string band, rendered splendid service. Mr. W. E. Stevenson was the organist. The amount realised by the anniversary was £21.14s. 9d. (with some additional items yet to come in).

Shipley.

An interesting meeting was held in Saltaire-road Church on July 15th, to bid goodspeed to Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Goldthorpe on their removal to Bootle. Rev. W. Chapman presided. Mr. Goldthorpe has filled various offices in the church—local preacher, society steward, superintendent of Sunday-school, and secretary of the Endeavour Society for fourteen years. Mrs. Rennard, on behalf of the C.E. Society, handed to Mr. Goldthorpe an illuminated address and a loose-leaf pocket book in appreciation of his services. Mr. T. Wilson presented to Mr. Goldthorpe, on behalf of the Leaders and friends, Dr. Hastings' Dictionary on the Bible; also a pair of silver flower-vases to Mrs. Goldthorpe. Miss Smith, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Chappell, Mr. T. C. Peters, and Mr. J. G. Peters each spoke of the faithful services rendered to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Goldthorpe.

Sunderland Fourth.

A concert and supper was recently held at Hendon Church, Sunderland, at which

Mr. J. M. Nicholson occupied the dual position of host and chairman in celebration of his sixty-four years' connection with the church. In reminiscent vein Mr. Nicholson gave a brief outline of the changed conditions of the people during the last sixty years that he has occupied the position of a local preacher. Later in the evening a surprise was sprung upon the host. Mr. J. Gardener called upon Mr. J. S. Carter to perform an interesting ceremony of presenting a beautiful Chesterfield chair. Mr. Carter, on behalf of the church, asked Mr. Nicholson to accept the gift as a token of regard for his long continuous service. He expressed the hope that his declining years would be all the brighter because of the reflections which the possession of the gift must bring. After a speech from Rev. W. E. Goodreid, Mr. Nicholson, visibly affected, thanked the friends for their unexpected token of esteem. Miss Jennie Gardener, Miss Elsie Nicholson and Mr. Wm. and T. Walker sang with great acceptance, whilst Miss Clara G. Carter presided at the piano. Supper was partaken of by a large number.

Watton.

The annual circuit gathering was held at Mr. E. Smith's, J.P., farm, Saham, on Thursday, July 15th, and was made the occasion of welcoming Rev. P. R. Webb to the circuit. Rev. A. Banham preached in the afternoon, and a good company gathered for the tea and public meeting. Words of welcome were spoken by Mr. E. Harvey and Mr. B. S. Dunnnett on behalf of the circuit, and stirring addresses were given by Revs. Banham and Webb. The net result was £5 for the circuit fund. The school anniversary services were held in the Wayland Hall on Sunday, July 18th, when Rev. P. R. Webb opened his ministry in Watton. Fine congregations, combined with excellent singing under the conductorship of Miss O. P. Dunnnett, with the aid of our own string band, and good reciting by the scholars, combined to make the day a great success. Collections in advance of last year.

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Women's Missionary Federation.

Birmingham.

The members of this Auxiliary were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ireland, of Four Oaks, on Wednesday, July 14th. A garden party was held on the beautiful lawn, kindly lent by Mrs. Smith, a local Wesleyan. Mrs. Butler presided, duets were rendered by the Misses Ireland, and an address was given by Sister Bowles. Miss Moore read the missionary letter. Thanks were given to the host and hostess, and also to all friends who took part. The collection realised £5 12s. 6d.

Bolton First.

A special meeting of this branch took place on Wednesday last. Mr. and Mrs. L. Chadwick gave the tea, and generously threw open the spacious rooms and beautiful grounds of their residence, Egerton Lodge, for the occasion. A large company assembled. The tea was laid out on the lawn and admirably served. A stall of articles for sale was presided over by Mrs. Whittle, this having been provided by the guests on the "American tea" principle. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Gibson, an old and valued missionary supporter. The address was given by Mrs. Genney, of Manchester. Votes of thanks were spoken to by Mesdames Parr, Brown, Warwick, Hammond, Clarke and Chadwick. The proceeds, including a donation of £1 from the president, amounted to £10.

Chesterfield.

A very successful garden party was held on July 15th, in the grounds of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Johnson, who also very generously gave the tea. Mrs. J. Pickett, President, presided at the meeting which followed, and on her behalf Rev. J. Pickett extended, in the name of the Auxiliary, a very cordial welcome to Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Musson, who have taken up duties at Chesterfield Second Circuit. Mr. Musson replied in suitable terms. Miss Barker read the monthly letter. Mrs. Hopkinson expressed hearty thanks to the host and hostess and their assistants, Miss Johnson and Miss Schofield.

Cleethorpes.

On behalf of the auxiliary, Mrs. H. Croft-Baker gave a garden "At Home"

on Monday, July 19th, at "Hillside," kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sleight. The beautiful grounds at "Hillside" lend themselves in a special way for outdoor meetings, and a very large company assembled to Mrs. Baker's invitation. Mrs. T. W. Bascomb (of Grimsby) presided, supported by Mrs. H. L. Taylor and others. Rev. H. Davenport gave the address. Several songs were given by Mr. Tom Patterson (a local favourite), and Miss Dorothy Chapman recited. The collection realised the fine sum of £9 14s. 6d.

Crewle First.

On Thursday, July 8th, we paid our annual visit to Lydney. Rev. O. L. Tack gave an interesting address on mission work. Miss E. Latham rendered a beautiful solo. Mrs. Tomlinson presided at the organ. Mrs. Hilton read the monthly letter from Mrs. Fell. After the meeting Mrs. Crank once more exhibited her generous spirit by providing tea, which realised a substantial sum.

Crook.

The monthly meeting was held at Bowden Close on July 14th, Mrs. J. Bell, Towlaw, presiding. Rev. J. Rutherford offered prayer. We were favoured with an address by Rev. J. Summers on Moravian Missions. Miss Hughes read the monthly letter, and Mrs. Armstrong was soloist. The Bowden Close ladies kindly provided tea. A collection was taken for mission purposes. Mrs. Armstrong was elected to attend the annual Council meeting to be held at Liverpool in October.

Gainsboro'.

The monthly meeting was held at Trinity-street, presided over by Mrs. A. Baldwin. The monthly letter was read by the vice-secretary, and an address given by Rev. Fuller Bryant (Wesleyan). Soloist, Miss Perkins. The tea was kindly given by Mrs. A. G. Perkins.

Leicester.

The Auxiliary, with a view of increasing the interest in other parts of the circuit, visited Enderby on July 22nd. Mrs. Horton presided, and a very able address was given by Miss Weston, of Wigston Magna. Miss R. Williams and Miss Deacon rendered a duet, and Miss Williams read the missionary letter. Tea was very generously provided by the ladies of the Church.

Liverpool.

The monthly meeting was held at Waterloo Church on the 14th inst. Mrs. Parsons (Wesleyan) presided. Miss Pauline Murphey and Miss Lilian Jones were the soloists, the latter was also the pianist. An interesting letter from Mrs. Smith (Kasenga) was read, with touches of personal experience, by Rev. W. Barlow, and much enjoyed. The officers appointed for the ensuing year are President, Mrs. Irvine; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Hall, Miss Hunter, Mrs. T. V. Williams, and Mrs. Dennison; Treasurer, Mrs. W. J. Bird; Secretary, Mrs. Bridge; representatives to the annual Conference, Mrs. Morris Jones and Mrs. Dennison. Mrs. Guttery is elected on the Executive. Rev. J. W. Normandale and B. Fell conducted the devotions.

Rhosymedre.

The monthly meeting, held at Ruabon on Wednesday, was well attended. Mrs. Barnfield conducted the devotional exercises. The foreign letter, which conveyed much useful information, was read by Mrs. Humphreys. Miss Gerty Hughes contributed a solo, Mrs. Evans being the accompanist. The president, Mrs. S. Buckley, gave a contribution on "The Mothers of the Bible." Tea was provided at the close by the Ruabon ladies.

Rotherham.

A successful garden party was held on Rev. F. and Mrs. Ash's lawn on Thursday (15th). It was a thoroughly representative gathering. Mrs. Jos. Chislett, as president, gracefully referred to days of happy association with Wellgate and the missionary cause. Mrs. A. Habershon gave a powerful address, emphasising, in these distressing days, the great need for faith, and loyalty to our Master. Mrs. Faulkner read the monthly letter, and Mrs. Wilkins rendered two solos with real effect. Tea was served by the Wellgate ladies, the financial result being encouraging.

St. Helens.

The monthly meeting was held on July 6th. Mrs. J. Noad, sen., presided, and Mrs. Wainman, wife of the Wesleyan minister, gave a most interesting address on some of her experiences during 17½ years' missionary

work in the Transvaal with the Kaffirs. Miss Eveline Wright rendered a very pleasing solo. The monthly letter was read by Mrs. Wm. Evans.

On Thursday, July 8th, we had a garden party at Windle House Farm, the residence of Mrs. Huyton. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Binks. Miss Florrie Clare rendered a beautiful solo, and Rev. A. Heaton gave a very timely address. Mrs. W. Evans gave the report of the Conference missionary meeting. Mrs. Heaton was the accompanist. Tea was provided by the ladies of the Auxiliary, and the result was very satisfactory.

Stanley.

The last meeting of the Federation was held in the Craghead Church, when a good number of ladies attended. The meeting was ably addressed by Sister Ellen, of Oldham, and the soloist was Mrs. Richardson. The Craghead ladies provided and served the tea, to which a good number sat down, with the result that the splendid sum of £5 6s. was realised.

Sheffield.

On Thursday, July 22nd, a garden party was held in the grounds of West View, Sharrow, on the invitation of Mrs. Elizabeth Adams. There was an unusually large attendance, in which all the Sheffield circuits were represented. Mr. W. E. Hart (Town Clerk) presided, and expressed his warm appreciation of the missionary work of the churches, especially his admiration of the organisation and work of the women. Rev. A. T. Guttery, in a very fine address, referred to a meeting at the John-street Church, at which the Women's Federation was initiated, and which had developed into one of the most powerful and prosperous of their Connexional organisations. It had demonstrated, to the astonishment of everybody, the moral and executive power of the organised womanhood of the church. Rev. A. Jubb and Rev. T. J. Gladwin (York), and Mrs. Croft Baker, the new President of the Federation, and Mrs. Leuty, the organising secretary, also took part in the proceedings. Solos were splendidly rendered by Miss Guest, with Miss Mabel Adams as accompanist. The collection realised £11 10s., which, with £6 3s., the proceeds of a sale of work, made a total of £17 13s. for the day.

APARTMENTS, HOTELS, HYDROS, &c.

Any Advertisements, for the current issue, of this description must reach the Office not later than first post Tuesday Morning.

A QUIET PLACE.—P.M. Home, Bingham, Blackpool.—Sea and country combined.—Mrs. HALSTED, Cliffe Mount, 35, Hesketh Avenue, two minutes from sea, cliffs, and car; piano.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. HEWITT, 40, Hull Road.—Home from home; highly recommended; close to Central Station and sea; with or without Board; piano; stamp.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. R. KNIGHT, Ivy Dene, 15, Clifton Street (opposite North Pier).—Comfortable and homely Apartments; sea view; near both railway stations; with or without Board; fires when cold and wet; terms moderate; P.M.; piano.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Oakroyd House, 79, Albert Road.—Home from home; close to sea and Central Station; with or without Board; P.M.; Piano.

BLACKPOOL. 88, Lytham Road, Mrs. JONES. Reliable Apartments, highly recommended; sea view; sitting and bedroom, cooking, attendance; 2s. two persons, per day; bath, piano.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. T. WOOD (from Huddersfield), Borough Road, Central Road.—Apartments; piano, &c.; reference, Rev. J. Spensley.

BLACKPOOL.—PENNINGTON, Fernroyd, Holmfield Road, Gynn Estate, North Shore.—Public and Private Apartments; minute from sea and cars; no intermediaries and no back rooms.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. DEDMAN, 42, Dickson Road; Home from home for old and new friends, with or without board. P.M.; piano.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. DRURY, Prospect House, 42, Hull Road.—Comfortable Apartments; close to sea and all amusements; central; piano.

BLACKPOOL. N.—Mrs. SELBY, 25, Exchange Street.—Comfortable Apartments; terms, 2s. two persons, bed, cooking and attendance; near Talbot Road Station and sea; P.M.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. A. SUTCLIFFE, 23, Edlington Road, off Central Drive.—Comfortable Apartments, near Central Station and sea.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. HARKEZ, Kimberley House, 8, St. Chad's Road, S.S.—Comfortable public and private Apartments; sea view; three doors from Promenade; highly recommended; terms reasonable.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. WAREING, 91, Egerton Road, North Shore; home for old and new friends; opposite P.M. Church, close to Promenade.

BLACKPOOL.—Comfortable, homely Apartments; 4 minutes sea.—Mrs. POWELL, 53, Bloomfield Road, Lytham Road, S.S.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. BARNES, 57, Osbourne Road, South Shore.—Most comfortable Apartments; three minutes from sea; Beds, 2s. per day, one or two persons; stamp.

BLACKPOOL.—Sunnyside Boarding Establishment, 8, St. Chad's Terrace, Promenade. Moderate terms, liberal table, comfortable beds; private room if desired; Telephone 532.—Proprietress, Mrs. E. BROWN.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. SHAW, 64, Central Drive.—superior Apartments, with or without board; close to central station and sea; terms moderate; P.M.

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. HORROCKS, 30, Charnley Road (member P.M. choir); two minutes sea and station; central; every home comfort; terms, 2s. per night two persons; full board, 4s. 6d. each per day; highly recommended.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Excellent private Apartments; splendid position, facing sea; moderate terms.—Mrs. JONES, 6, Brighton Parade, Promenade, P.M.

BOURNEMOUTH.—"Westfield," Surrey Road.—Christian Boarding Establishment; beautifully situated, extensive grounds; overlooking public gardens; private rooms if desired, or suites; bungalow on beach; terms from 30s. Also Chino House, Undercliffe Road, Boscombe, overlooking pier; from 28s.

BOURNEMOUTH.—"Fifield," Undercliff Road, Boscombe.—Beautifully situated, overlooking the pier, bracing position; two minutes from sea front and adjoining the pleasure gardens; comfortable Christian home; terms from 22s. 6d.

CLUN, SHROPSHIRE.—"The Ferns." Apartments. Spend your holiday in the delightful Clun Valley; beautiful scenery, healthy neighbourhood; the old-world town of Clun (668 feet above sea level), situated on the Welsh border, rich in historic interest.—Apply, Mrs. JONES.

EASTBOURNE.—P.M.'s visiting Eastbourne will find comfortable Apartments with active P.M.'s; close to sea and church.—Mrs. O'DELL, "Bonfordin," Seaford Road.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Comfortable Apartments; few minutes from sea; terms moderate.—Mrs. W. J. HEMP, 137, Alderson Road.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Mrs. SAUNDERS, 8, Wellcote Road.—Comfortable Apartments; bath and piano; minute from sea and cars; central. P.M.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Mrs. KERRISON; comfortable P.M. private and homely Apartments, near trams and sea; terms moderate; organ.—83, Garfield Road.

LANDSKRONA VILLA. Fleetwood Road, near Fleetwood.—Ideal Apartments; private sitting-room and bedroom, bath and piano; beautiful garden and eight acres of woodland; a veritable haven of rest; electric cars pass the group a.

LIKLEY.—Homely Apartments; south aspect, wood view; 3 minutes from Station; piano; terms moderate.—Miss BRUCE, Wharfedale.

KESWICK.—Mrs. BELL, 16, Southey Street.—Comfortable Apartments; P.M.

LONDON.—Mrs. BLACKWELL, P.M., 52, Huntingdon Street, Oakland Road, King's Cross; central and quiet; good breakfast 2s.; very central; highly recommended.

MARGATE.—P. M. and others will find happy comfortable home at Gladys Boarding House, Dalby Square, Cliftonville; facing sea; terms moderate; well recommended; good table.—Mrs. PHILLIPS, late of May Tree Hotel, London.

MORECAMBE. West End.—Mrs. LADELL, The Maples, Cedar Street.—Public and private Apartments; bath and piano; highly recommended; P.M.

MORECAMBE.—Home with P.M.—Mrs. HOLMES, Edselheim, 13, Promenade, near West End, pier.—Best position; bed and attendance, 2s. two persons; board optional; piano.

MORECAMBE, W.E.—Misses BELL, Eden House, 57, Alexandra Road.—Pleasant Apartments, public and private; board optional; terms moderate; near sea, pier, and bandstand.

MORECAMBE.—Mrs. LOB, Albion House, 31, James Terrace, Easton Road.—Central for Lake district; near station and sea; public and private; sunny.

MORECAMBE, W.E.—Mrs. FRANK B. RAINE, "Pomfret," 3, Marine Terrace, Heysham Road.—Pleasant Apartments; public and private; 100 yds from promenade.

MORECAMBE.—Mrs. R. R. RICKERS, Bright and well-furnished Apartments; public and private; Board optional; P.M.; stamp.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Seaside holiday Apartments, overlooking promenade and Victoria Gardens; close ferry.—Mrs. DOUGLAS, 31, Virginia Road, New Brighton.

NEWCASTLE, SHROPSHIRE.—Apartments to let in a pretty healthy country village; splendid scenery; near post; terms moderate; a comfortable home for old friends and new to spend a day.—Mrs. FRANCIS, New House, Newcastle, Clun, Salop.

NORTH WALES, CRICCIETH.

Bright and bracing; bathing; central for Snowdon mountains and Aberglaslyn Pass, Vale of Festiniog.—For particulars, board and apartments, apply Mrs. A. WALKER, F.M.s, Mount Pleasant, Criccieth.

SCARBOROUGH.—Comfortable Public and Private Apartments, near sea and gardens; ministerial and other references; terms moderate.—Mrs. E. JACKSON, 68, Trafalgar Square. A.P.M. home.

SCARBOROUGH.—Apartments; full sea view; near gardens, lake, and cars.—Mrs. REX, 103, Queen's Parade.

SCARBOROUGH.—Comfortable Apartments; central, convenient for North and South Docks, gardens and lakes; terms strictly moderate.—Mrs. ROBERTS, 2, Cambridge Street.

SCARBOROUGH.—Comfortable Apartments; public and private; ideal house and position, facing sea; experienced cooking (10 years with N.E. Ry. Supt.).—Mrs. ROWLEY, York House, 115, Queen's Parade.

SKEGNESS.—Mrs. ROUSE, "Oakleigh," Althwaite Road (New Address).—Comfortable Apartments, or Board-Residence; close to sea, gardens, and baths; terms moderate; well recommended; P.M. Stamp.

ST. ANNES - ON - THE - SEA.—Mrs. GREENHALGH and Miss RIDING (late of Southport).—Ivy Dene, 62, St. Andrew's Road, S. Comfortable Apartments.

SOUTHPORT.—Mrs. DYSON, Moray House, 10, Victoria Street, off Promenade. Comfortable Apartments; bath and piano; sea view; sunny and central; well-aired beds.

SOUTHPORT.—Apartments, near Promenade, Lord Street, station, and P.M. Church. A home from home.—Mrs. STAPLES, 20, Seabank Road, Southport.

SOUTHPORT.—3, Victoria Street (off St. Promenade) is the (Wright) house for comfort, &c.; public, private, and permanent apartments; sea view; beds a speciality; most central; terms moderate.—Apply, Mrs. WRIGHT.

SOUTHPORT (safety area).—"Matlock House," 60, Bath Street.—Apartments or Board; near promenade, Lord Street, church, station; Methodist home; highly recommended by ministers; piano, bath; invalids specially suited; terms moderate.—Mrs. HALL.

APARTMENTS, ETC., SHOULD NOW BE ADVERTISED IN THE "LEADER." ADVERTISEMENTS SHOULD REACH THE OFFICE BY TUESDAY MORNING IF TO APPEAR THE SAME WEEK.