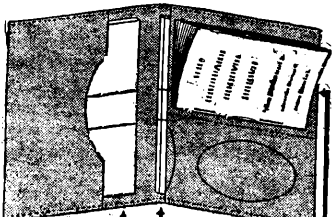


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THE Primitive Methodist Leader

INCORPORATING

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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.; Half-yearly, 2s. 6d.; Annual, 4s. 6d. Post Free.

THROUGH TRUST TO TRIUMPH.

By Arthur T. Guttery.

A volume, containing fervid speeches by a most eloquent statesman, has been entitled "Through Terror to Triumph." Such a description is unworthy of the splendid appeals made to the conviction and conscience of the nation. Terror is an impossible road for a free and imperial people, seeking an unselfish and righteous victory. Lord Muner, with amazing folly, has denounced "the delusions of optimism" as full of peril to our country, and seeks to make our flesh creep with lurid descriptions of the blunders and disasters we have survived and the exhaustion and tragedy we may expect. It is not hope we need fear, but the pessimism that spreads like a poisonous gas and stifles the nerve and will. Lord Northcliffe, by his press, promotes distrust and division, and deepens the shadows of national depression. He pleads for an enlarged Cabinet and mourns that it is too large. He demands authority for great statesmen, whom he at once attacks. He regrets that voluntarism will fail and does his best to make its failure certain. He desires closer co-operation between the Allies and immediately sows suspicion between them by insinuating their discontent with the contribution of Britain. He magnifies every mistake, discounts every victory, and says little of the unparalleled achievements of our Navy. The very fact that we have survived the miasma of his press proves our possession of a vitality that makes victory sure. It is high time that croakers retired into private life. Germany is to-day a maddened prisoner. On the East and West she is held fast by bars of steel; on the North the Baltic waters pass surely into our control; on the South-West the pressure of gallant Italy grows more relentless. The only door that is open, the only prospect of free initiative, is in the Balkans, and Lord Kitchener has gone to bolt and bar that way of escape. The enemy no longer hopes to win the victory of which he dreamed; he would prolong the struggle, would strike wildly anywhere in the vain reckoning that we shall tire, grow fretful, and accept a peace that rests on terror. His ambition must be dashed in pieces. Prussianism must be broken into powder. We must not listen to peace proposals that spring from fear. We may shorten the war. Thank God, we cannot lose it! We only need to maintain our industries, reduce economic waste, reinforce our Armies, trust our Navy, and advance in the assurance of a victory that is as certain as to-morrow's sunrise. It is a sane and songful trust that will lead to triumph, and not a fevered and fainting terror.

The road is open for advance upon our foe. The Balkan mystery moves to its solution, and we shall not be fooled again by dynastic intrigues. The States whose freedom we would secure must make their choice under the shadow of the British Navy and under the gaze of the Allied troops. The Serbian Army is still intact; its retreat has been most costly to the enemy, and has been made with a steady precision worthy of Russian strategy. The brave Serbs are now in touch with the French and British armies, and while the Central Powers spend their depleted resources in a slow advance, Bulgarian treachery is likely to be crushed between the Serbs on the North and the Allies on the South; our cause grows brighter with every week of waiting. In the Balkans Germany may find a bleeding ulcer that will prove fatal. Our sons and brothers face another winter in the West under better conditions than those of a year ago, and they will be cheered by the massing of the greatest guns the world has seen and the piling up of munitions that shall enable them to blaze their way to the Rhine, when strategy says the right hour has come. Winter in the East is full of terror to the Teuton hosts, and, behind the frozen barrier, Russia is equipping her new millions of men for the Spring advance. It is madness to forget these facts that sanction trust.

At home we have cause for cheer. The conduct of the war is in the hands of a Council of five; its decisions will be enacted swiftly. The Headquarters Staff has been revived and will view all fields of the campaign with scientific judgment. The Allied commands are in closer touch so that action on every battle front may be combined and balanced. The Government has survived criticism and intrigue, and is stronger than ever in the confidence of the people. It is so strong that it can afford the withdrawal of strong personalities without danger of collapse. Sir Edward Carson retires, and the nation is relieved. Mr. Winston Churchill withdraws, and the people are grateful for his brilliant services, are glad to welcome his vindication, and expect for him a great future, but cannot afford to shed a Government to retain a politician. The House of Lords is allowed to talk folly. Lord Willoughby de Broke prophesies

disaster, but the British people are too resolute to discuss hysterical vapourings.

We accept heavier taxation without complaint. The liquor trade is being fettered and slowly stifled, and hardly dares to make a protest. Labour welcomes the new burdens; wealth abandons many a luxury that the world may know that our resolve is immovable. Volunteers of all classes roll up to the colours, the shirker and the slacker are ashamed. Industrial Britain astonishes the world by its swift creation of a free and mighty army. Young men abandon professional careers; Universities are proud of students who surrender their books to write with their blood a paragraph in the story of a new Europe. Theological colleges are closing their doors, and Primitive Methodism is not likely to be the last Church to cheer its future ministers who feel called upon to guard the life of the nation, to whom they hope to preach in happier morrows. The academic chill, the scholastic separation, have become impossible when the nation is aflame to guard its honour and fulfil its mission. In all the Churches we shall see grave and saintly scholars and teachers renew their youth, and they rush to fill the vacancies caused by the heroic souls who sacrifice their dreams and endure loathsome tasks that they may save Europe from the curse of military domination. The nation is not weary, its unity grows deeper, its resolve more fixed, and it expects its leaders to trust it in every crisis that may test its courage.

The confidence declared in this column a week ago has evoked gratitude from many readers. The surprise is that certainty of victory should be a discovery at all. Our cause is more than just, it is holy. Our efforts are more than military or economic, they are sacramental. Britain is more than a political fact, it is the citadel of freedom, the refuge of oppressed peoples, and the lighthouse of Christian missions. In these convictions we put our trust, and through such trust we advance to a triumph that shall hasten the redemption of the world.

REV. J. TOLEFREE PARR ON THE WAR AND THE DRINK TRAFFIC.

On Wednesday evening, November 10th, Rev. J. Tolefree Parr delivered what proved to be a most powerful address at a Conference of London temperance workers in Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C., on "The War and the Drink Traffic." The Bishop of Willesden presided. At the outset of his speech Mr. Parr congratulated the London United Temperance Council on its success in once more preventing the granting of liquor licences to prominent music halls, and paid a warm tribute to Mr. C. Pinhorn, its secretary, for the remarkable ability and tact with which he had conducted the opposition. Through the union of Anglicans and Nonconformists the Council had been enabled to bring strong pressure to bear upon the licensing authorities, and they had every reason to be thankful that, while during the last eighteen years the population of London had increased by over a million, licensed premises had been reduced by no less than sixteen hundred and fifty. During the war great advances had been made, but to maintain these positions unity was more than ever necessary. The war has

Vindicated the Temperance Claim

that alcohol is a deadly racial poison, and a serious menace to national efficiency. During the war we have taken a big stride forward. The testimonies of our chief military and naval leaders—Kitchener, Roberts, Wolsley, Jellicoe, and Beresford—that alcohol seriously impairs the efficiency of soldiers and sailors; the striking object lesson of Russia in prohibiting by national edict the sale of vodka, and suppressing by local veto the sale of lighter drinks in many of her principal cities and thousands of her villages; the prohibition by France of the sale of absinthe, and the rigid exclusion of alcohol from the war zone by General Joffre's own request, who has declared "It is the duty of all patriots to fight alcoholism in all its forms"; all these facts and testimonies cannot fail to produce a profound impression upon our people. They will be unable to escape the conclusion that if strong drink is no good to the fighting man it is no good to any man.

The war has demonstrated that drink is indeed

The Nation's Greatest Enemy.

It has revealed in an almost lurid manner the awful price the nation is paying for its patronage of the drink traffic. Lloyd George's solemn asseveration "We are fighting three enemies—Germany, Austria and Drink, and the greatest of these is Drink," is absolutely true. We have been on the verge of national disaster, though historians will probably try to gloss over the fact. Years ago Lord Rosebery said, "If we do not control the liquor traffic the liquor traffic will throttle the commonwealth." During the war it has almost succeeded in doing so. While the nation has been engaged in a life and death struggle the liquor octopus has not relinquished its relentless grip. Drink has threatened the efficiency of our soldiers. We are proud of the fact that there are 250,000 total abstainers in Kitchener's Army. In a great Territorial training centre, 78 per cent. were abstainers, but the vast majority have been bound by the evil drinking customs of the nation. Those who wished have been allowed free scope to render themselves unfit. The appeal of Lord Kitchener and Lord Roberts has fallen on deaf ears, our public-houses have been crowded with soldiers. At our great railway termini on Sunday evenings hundreds of soldiers returning to camp after their week-end leave have been more or less intoxicated. The Army authorities themselves have been among the chief offenders by rigidly adhering to the evil traditions of the War Office. In every camp canteens have been opened where liquor has flowed freely. Multitudes of young men, away from the restraints of home, have been suddenly confronted with peculiar temptations. When the Canadians, most of whom

were teetotalers, and all of whom hailed from a country largely free from liquor temptations, arrived on Salisbury Plain, a British canteen was immediately opened for them, and the Colonel openly boasted that they should now have their beer and rum. The result was the downfall of many a bright lad, to the unspeakable grief of his parents across the sea. How the safety of the nation and Empire has been imperilled by delays in transport and the

Shortage of Munitions, due Directly to Drink,

will never be fully known. But let me recall the grave statements made by the heads of great shipbuilding and engineering firms (not one of whom was a teetotaler) to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, complaining bitterly of the difficulty they experienced in fulfilling their contracts owing to the drinking habits of the workmen, and demanding drastic restrictions. Think of the appalling evidence of the 'White Paper' (really one of the blackest ever presented to Parliament) showing that when troops were urgently needed in France the transports were held back through the drunkenness of the crews; how ships carrying supplies and munitions were also delayed by the same cause; how the supplies for the Fleet had become so uncertain, and the repairs to warships so long delayed, all from the same cause, that Admiral Jellicoe expressed 'the gravest fears.'

The slowness of the Government to take action can only be accounted for by the tremendous power of the drink traffic. The fatal flaw in the Licensing Restriction Act of 1914, giving the Chief Constable the power to decide whether the Act should be applied to any borough or city, was due directly to the astuteness and threats of representatives of the liquor interests in the House of Commons. The first week after the Act came into force in Liverpool the convictions for drunkenness fell from 217 to 118. Magistrates and judges testify to the great reduction of drunkenness, crime and disorder wherever the Act has been adopted. Not a few have expressed the hope that it might become permanent. Under the Defence of the Realm Act great munition centres have been brought under still more drastic restrictions with equally beneficial results. In the four great cities of Scotland there was a decrease of 46 per cent. in convictions for intemperance the first week after the Act came into force. At last London is to become a prescribed area, and we may confidently predict a great advance of general sobriety in the Metropolis. The latest regulation, the anti-treating flat, has, according to the Chief Constable, already produced most satisfactory results. Last Monday some of the London police-courts had not a single case of drunkenness, and in all the rest there was a decided decrease. The operation of these various measures of war time will, be believe, prove so beneficial to the health, happiness and good order of the community that the nation will never consent to go back to the old régime. But we may be quite sure the liquor trade will do its utmost to restore the former conditions. Already it is organising its forces for this end. Hence it is the duty of temperance workers to educate the people so thoroughly that when the struggle comes public opinion will prove too strong for the liquor interests.

Happily, in this great task we have the unprecedented advantage of

The King's Example.

We can appeal to the patriotism of the people. Unlike the Czar of Russia, our gracious King cannot by a stroke of the pen compel all his subjects to abstain, but he has made clear his wish by setting the example, and to every true patriot a Royal wish is a Royal command. It is deeply humiliating that the King's appeal has not met with a wider response. The action of the Houses of Parliament in refusing to close their bars is one of the most creditable episodes in their history. They pleaded that to close the bars of the Houses of Parliament and keep their own wine cellars open would be hypocritical; but they should have closed both. They have been guilty of real hypocrisy in refusing to apply the anti-treating regulation to themselves. They even made it a subject of ridicule. We hope their action will arouse strong protests from the patriotic citizens all over the land. We also hope that there will be a protest, not less general and vehement, against the Lord Mayor and the aldermen of the City of London in providing the usual abundant supply of wines and liquors at the Lord Mayor's banquet. It is a grave scandal in this hour of our country's agony, and a real, if unintentional, slight on the King himself. We rejoice that over two millions have already taken the King's pledge. Great numbers of the Anglican clergy have done so, and have become most ardent propagandists. With regard to the Nonconformist ministers, it may be truly said they have not followed the King, because the King has followed them. Let Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Nonconformists unite in a great campaign to obtain pledges by means of public meetings, house-to-house canvass, working separately every borough in turn by the methods of a by-election, and utilising to the utmost extent posters and other literature. By these and every other means possible let us seek to educate public opinion, so that at the close of the war we may hold the positions already won, that the war may mark an epoch in the history of temperance reform, and that the nation may emerge from its fiery furnace resolved to free itself for ever from the tyranny of strong drink.

"The Charmed Circle, and Other Sketches by the Way." By James Gellatly. (A. H. Stockwell. 1s. 6d. net.)

This book of 116 pages contains twelve stories of Scottish life. They are well written, and deal chiefly with ministers and their congregations. There is a pawky humour about them which gives them added interest. The sketches of some of the characters are like limned portraits, and often you get a glimpse into the depths of the human heart. Everyone who reads these sketches will be better for the reading, which will give pure and healthy enjoyment.

Services and Preachers.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

London and Suburbs.

BERMONDSEY, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, OLD KENT ROAD, S.E. 11. Rev. C. E. Buck; 3.15, P.S.A. Fellowship; Speaker, Mr. Arthur Black; 6.30, Rev. H. J. Taylor.

CALEDONIAN ROAD, N. (corner of Market Road). 11 and 6.30, Rev. W. Roberts; 3, Mr. Justice (Sir Clement) Bailhache.

CAMDEN TOWN, N.W., King Street. 11, Mr. T. Moffett; 6.30, Mr. T. Balderstone.

CANNING TOWN, E. (Mary Street, Barking Road). 11 and 6.30, Rev. J. Bastow Wilson, and P.S.A.

HAMMERSMITH, Dalling Road. 11, Rev. T. H. Heward; 7, E. C. Rawlings, J.P.

HARRINGAY, Mattison Road. 11 and 6.30, Rev. E. J. T. Bagnall.

SURREY CHAPEL, Central Mission, Blackfriars Road, S.E. 11. Rev. R. C. Parsons; 7, Mr. Arthur Black; 3.15, Musical Service, Children's Mission Anniversary.

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

Provincial.

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, Mr. H. Baker; 6.30, Rev. J. Billington.

BRIGHTON, London Road. 11, Rev. W. A. Hammond; 6.45, Rev. W. C. Fell. Visitors welcomed.

CULLERCOATS. 10.45 and 6.30, Mr. F. C. Thornborough, J.P.

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

LEEDS NINTH, Meanwood Road. 10.30 and 6, Mr. E. Gummerson. Harehills Avenue. 10.45 and 6, Rev. J. Morrison.

LIVERPOOL FIRST, Prince's Avenue Church. 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. Arthur T. Guttery.

MORECAMBE, Parliament Street. 10.30, Rev. J. Shepherd; 6.30, Mr. J. Latham.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Central Church. 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. T. Sykes.

NOTTINGHAM FIRST, Canaan, Broad Marsh. 10.30 and 6.30, Mr. W. H. Collett. Visitors always welcomed.

SCARBOROUGH, St. Sepulchre Street (off Eastborough). 10.30 and 6.30, Rev. J. Reavley. 22nd, Lecture. 24th, Tea and Meeting.

SOUTHPORT SECOND, Church Street. 10.30, Rev. J. E. Hughes; 6.30, Rev. J. S. White.

SOUTHSEA, Central Hall, near King's Theatre. 11 and 6.30, Rev. L. Hancock. Visitors always welcomed.

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

The President's Engagements.

Great Yarmouth First, November 21st and 22nd; Methow, November 23rd; King's Lynn, November 24th; Thetford, November 25th.

Connexional Evangelists' Engagements.

MISS PERRETT, Ystrad Mynach, Glam.

MR. J. B. BAYLIFF, Flottergate, Grimsby, November 13th to 23rd.

Evangelists' Engagements.

MR. JAS. CAREY, Hamsterley, November 6th to 24th.

MR. TOM HOLLAND, Blackheath, November 13th to 22nd.

SISTER LILY, Porter's Buildings, Sutton-in-Ashfield, November 14th to 25th.—Address, Southwell Road, Rainworth, Mansfield.

SISTER ELEN, Lamber-Head Green, Orrell, November 20th to December 2nd. Applications 251, Lees Road, Oldham.

SISTER WINIFRED (late of Hackney and North Bow Mission).—For particulars apply, "The Guest House," Hunstanton, Norfolk.

SISTER ETHEL, Bagworth, Coalville, November 26th to December 2nd. First open date, March 4th, 1916.—Apply, 31, Chapel Street, Barwell, Hinckley.

W. H. HEWITT, Evangelist. Now booking dates for Mission Services, 1915 and 1916; for vacant dates apply early.—279, Briercliffe Road, Burnley.

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.

BIRMINGHAM PRIMITIVE METHODIST COUNCIL.—Primitive Methodists removing to Birmingham will be directed to the nearest Primitive Methodist church if notification is sent to the Secretary, Mr. W. E. Woollen, 16, Churchill-road, Bordesley Green, Birmingham. Full Birmingham address should be stated to enable correct direction to be given.

TO-DAY!! you should get the "CHRISTIAN HERALD," which contains a BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATED WALL ALMANAC with daily Texts. TWO PENCE.

Births, Marriages, Deaths.

NOTICES must reach the Office, 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4, by Tuesday morning. Terms, prepaid: Under 30 words, 2s.; each additional 10 words or less, 6d. Memoirs, reports of marriages, etc., must be accompanied by a prepaid notice.

MARRIAGES.

BETTS-BEDDOW.—On November 10th, at Seacombe Church, by Rev. A. Smith, James Betts, St. Annes-on-Sea, to Sarah, daughter of the late Thomas and of Mrs. Beddow (formerly Liverpool).

KERRISON-REEDER.—On November 4th, at Shepperton-on-Thames, Private Harold Wesley Kerrison (10th Middlesex Regiment), only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Kerrison, of Great Yarmouth, to Gertrude Louise, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Reeder, of Shepperton-on-Thames.

LAND-LAKE.—On November 11th, at Queen's-road Church, Norwich, by Rev. E. B. Storr, Arthur Ernest Land to Bessie Lake.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

LORD-SCOTT.—On November 23rd, 1865, at Rehoboth Chapel, Park Lane, Leeds, by Rev. Thomas Dearlove, William Lord to Mary Scott, both of Wortley, Leeds.

DEATH.

BOSWORTH.—On November 3rd, at Anstey, Leicester, James Bosworth, aged seventy-four. Life's battle won.

MARSDEN.—On November 11th, Beatrice Ibbolson Marsden, B.A., aged twenty-two, daughter of Joe and Hannah Marsden, Jesmond Villas, Dore, Sheffield. At home in Beulah Land.

RAYNER.—On November 5th, suddenly, Alice, third daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Rayner, 35, Franklin-road, Harrogate. "With Christ, which is far better."

TANFIELD.—On November 16th, Rev. Richard Tanfield, of York, aged ninety-two years. Funeral service at Victoria Bar Church, York.

IN MEMORIAM.

DAY.—In loving memory of Mary Ann, the beloved wife of Thomas Day, of Luton. Called suddenly to higher service November 17th, 1914. "The flower falls, the fragrance remains." Lovingly remembered by her husband and children.

LOYD.—In loving remembrance of Ann, wife of Thomas Lloyd, who entered the Homeland November 17th, 1914. Into the sunshine of God's perfect day. Ever remembered by her husband and family.

SPENCER.—In loving memory of Charles Henry Spencer, late of Waltham Chase, who died of wounds received in action November 17th, 1914.

Ministerial Changes and Engagements.

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

Changes in 1916.

Rev. J. W. Everingham from Chelmsford after five years.

Engagements for 1916-17.

Rev. A. T. Ogg to Wickhambrook and Newmarket.
Rev. N. Boocock from Leighton Buzzard to Aylesbury.
Rev. T. Thompson to Wickhambrook and Newmarket.
Rev. J. W. Jenkinson to Manchester Fourth, a fourth year.
Rev. A. G. Gray from Blackwood to Poplar.
Rev. J. A. Tingle from Graxington to Nelson (Glam.).
Rev. A. C. Hall to Cwm, a third year.
Rev. J. H. Bedford to Pontypool, a third year.

Engagements for 1917-18.

Rev. A. Wilkes from Blackheath to Tunstall, and not as stated last week.

PERSONAL.

Many correspondents have not yet adjusted themselves to the revised postal rates. It was authoritatively announced that during the first week of November, the first week of the new rates, the Post Office excess charges amounted to over £2,000. Many of our own correspondents are aiding the Postmaster-General unwittingly, although not at their own charge. The liberal letter rate of four ounces for a penny, which ended on October 31st, has been continued by many correspondents, who find it difficult to realise that they can now send only one ounce for that amount, and that all letters over one ounce should bear the value of two penny stamps. Some of our correspondents have had doubts on the matter and have put on an extra halfpenny stamp, but the authorities are relentless and demand double payment for all stampage that is deficient. Manuscript is often very heavy in weight, unsuspectingly so at times, that all who send letters or manuscript are desired to observe the revised rates of postage and so prevent excess charges.

The Editor desires gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of 2s. 6d. from Mr. T. Wareing, Blackpool, for the Russian Jews' Relief Fund.

Mr. John Duxbury, the famous elocutionist, has promised to give a miscellaneous recital at the Kingsway Hall, W.C., on Wednesday, November 24th, at 8.15. Tickets may be purchased at the hall, sixpence each.

Dr. A. S. Peake attains his fiftieth year on the 24th inst. His wide circle of friends heartily congratulate him upon the event, and wish him many, very many more anniversaries of his birth. The Church throughout the land will rejoice to learn that gradually Dr. Peake's health is improving. For some time he has been at Buxton undergoing special treatment, and though he has now returned home and has resumed his College duties, his special medical treatment is being continued. Happily, the specialists find no disease in him and nothing organically wrong, but he is counselled to take the greatest care of himself and to lighten his labours wherever possible. Those who know the Doctor will understand how difficult this is for him to do. The great work that yet awaits Dr. Peake and his priceless value to all the Churches will, we hope, induce him to heed the medical advice tendered to him.

Rev. Richard Tanfield, of York, passed away in the early hours of Tuesday morning, November 16th, at the advanced age of ninety-two. For many years Mr. Tanfield occupied a prominent position in our Church as a circuit minister, until he was appointed to the Insurance Office at York, where he rendered conspicuous service. He superannuated at the Conference of 1888, and then settled in York, where he continued to reside until called home. The newer generation of Primitive Methodists will not be able to recall Mr. Tanfield, so long has he been aside from public work, but those who remember the ministry of forty years ago will have stirring memories of the remarkable gifts as an arousing preacher and speaker possessed by our friend. He lived long, served his Church devotedly and well, and now has entered upon his well-earned rest.

The Editor of the *Leader* has seen one of the "Soldier's and Sailor's Companion and Wallet" advertised by our Bookroom in this issue, and has pleasure in commending it to our people as admirably suited for our soldiers and sailors. We cannot think of anything more useful as a Christmas present from a mother to her soldier or sailor boy, a sister to her soldier or sailor brother, a young lady to her sweetheart in khaki. Send your orders at once to Mr. Johnson, as there is sure to be a great run on them.

Rev. J. P. Langham's article in the current "Holborn Review" on "Bees in Amber" has attracted the attention of the author of the volume, Mr. John Oxenham, and has brought from the distinguished author a warm appreciation of Mr. Langham's article. In expressing his thanks, Mr. Oxenham forwarded to Mr. Langham a copy of the book inscribed by the author, together with a companion volume, just issued, entitled, "All's Well." It appears from the author's note that "Bees in Amber" was the product of years gone by, that the MS. was laid by and almost forgotten, and was brought to light by an interesting incident, that publishers declined to publish the MS., and counselled that if published there would be no demand. Thus far the experts strayed in their judgment. More than 53,000 copies of the book have been sold, and the demand is continually on the increase.

Recent news from Dr. Hillyard Holmes (son of Mr. A. E. Holmes, of Great Western-street Church, Manchester) is to the effect that he is a prisoner in German hands in Serbia. Dr. Holmes went with the first British Red Cross unit to Serbia more than a year ago, and has rendered distinguished service, receiving tokens of royal favour for his devotion and skill. The German invaders of Serbia have now taken possession of the town, and for the present Dr. Holmes is a captive. Mr. A. E. Holmes has three other sons now serving in the Army—Second Lieut. H. W. Holmes is in France; Second Lieut. V. R. Holmes is in Flanders, while the fourth son, Frank E. Holmes, is in the Inns of Court O.T.C., and is at present at Berkhamstead.

We deeply regret to learn that Rev. J. T. Morris, of Exmouth, passed away on Friday last at the early age of thirty-four years. For three years Mr. Morris had been in ill-health, but bravely struggled on in his work until recently, when he had to seek release. About two months ago he went to Llandrindod Wells, in the hope of obtaining some benefit. He, however, had to return home, where the end came on the 12th inst. The funeral took place yesterday, 17th November, at Pembridge. Much sympathy is felt for the young widow and child.

The President of Conference preached twice on Thursday, November 11th, at Bradford, in Kirkgate Chapel, in connection with the Bradford and District Free Church Council. There were large and representative gatherings, and the President's messages were much appreciated. He is asked to serve the Council again.

Councillor W. E. Morse, Mayor of Swindon, was, on Tuesday, November 9th, re-elected to occupy the civic chair. This is the first time in the municipal history of the borough that a retiring Mayor has been re-elected. This makes the third year in succession for Swindon Town to have a Primitive Methodist Mayor. Rev. S. A. Barron becomes Mayor's chaplain for the third year in succession, and conducted the service on Sunday morning, November 14th, at Regent-street Church. The Mayor was accompanied by the deputy Mayor, Councillor O. Hill. The members and officials of the corporations were present in large numbers. The Mayor's sister (Mrs. Stanier) presided at the organ. The singing was conducted by Mr. Adams.

The Conference Missionary Committee are getting the arrangements for the Missionary Day well in hand, and are resolved to make it a great success. The historic and commodious Wesley Chapel is likely to be the venue of the day's meetings, and a strong platform is being arranged for the evening gathering. The ladies have their plans prepared and in progress for raising a splendid contribution to the afternoon meeting.

Rev. T. Sykes has paid his first visit to Birmingham, where he addressed two gatherings of Free Church

TWO GOOD THINGS!
REV. J. H. JOWETT, D.D.,
ON
"STRONGHOLDS OF INIQUITY"
Mr. LLOYD GEORGE
ON
"WHAT WALES HAS DONE"
See this week's
HORNER'S WEEKLY — 1d.

ministers and Free Churchmen at the Sparkhill Church, Rev. Professor R. A. Aytoun, M.A., presiding on each occasion. The masterly address of Mr. Sykes on "The New Outlook of the Church occasioned by the War" made a profound impression on those privileged to hear it. Mr. Sykes has already been asked to visit the Midland capital again.

Speaking at a missionary meeting in Swindon, Rev. H. Carden said he had been conversing with a Presbyterian chaplain on furlough from the front, and he paid a high tribute to the excellent work being done by our chaplains in France, and spoke in the highest terms of the untiring and self-sacrificing labours of Rev. George Kendall, who was winning the hearts of all the soldiers he came in contact with.

Large numbers of troops have been stationed at Redcar since the commencement of the war. A representative gathering of townspeople was called to consider the best ways and means of contributing to the social needs of the soldiers billeted there. Our minister, on behalf of our Redcar Trustees, has offered our schoolroom for the purpose. This was gladly accepted. It was fitted up with every reasonable comfort; games were introduced and convenience for letter writing. A town's committee was formed to carry out all arrangements in working the club. Night by night a supper is arranged at a nominal cost to the soldiers. Teas were provided on Sundays, at which a free-will offering was taken. Hundreds of soldiers partook of tea on the Sunday afternoons. The commanding officer has expressed his thanks to our people and his appreciation of our work in the town. The club has been largely used, and has saved the men from the temptations of the public-house. The way our own ladies at our Redcar Church have worked is worthy of the highest commendation. It has given us influence and prestige in the town. Mr. Joseph Smith, the society steward, deserves the highest praise. His services have been large and generous. By means of the club we have come in touch with men of different creeds, and have found out Primitive Methodists from many parts. Some of them, including a few aviators, attend our class meetings and other services.

Russell-street Church, Willenhall, has just held its choir festival, which proved a great occasion. The choir has a wide reputation for its high musical ability, and is one of the finest choirs in the Midlands. Those who attended the three services on the Sunday were eloquent in praise of the feast of music provided, whilst nothing was wanting in the reverent rendering of each and every piece—the music was worship. The preacher for the day was Rev. J. Pearce, who heartily congratulated the choir on their splendid ministry to the church.

Rev. Jacob Walton has been appointed a member of the Free Library Committee of the borough by the Ilkeston Town Council. Our church in the town regards the appointment as a distinct honour.

Through the combined efforts of Rev. J. G. Cushing and Mr. J. Holland, C.C., a gift of about 120 chairs has been made to the new hall at the Harrgate Orphans' Home by High Wycombe chair manufacturers.

Rev. J. Prince, who is rendering excellent service at Buwell, and also as recording secretary to the Nottingham Conference Arrangements Committee, is compelled, owing to persistent throat trouble, to apply for superannuation at the next Conference.

In the competition for the vacant bursaries of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, William Croit Dickinson (son of Rev. W. Dickinson, of Silsden) was placed seventh on the Order of Merit List out of sixty-seven competitors. He has also passed the Scotch University Preliminary Examination in the Higher Division, and has been awarded the Simson Bursary for three years. In recognition of this success, and the good work done for the past three years, the Court of Governors of Mill-hill School, London, has also presented him with a Leaving Scholarship, tenable at St. Andrews University. He has joined the O.C.T. (Officers Training Corps) in connection with the University.

The 7th Welsh Regiment have their headquarters for the present at Saltburn. They defend the coast line from Hartlepool to Whitby, being a cyclist corps. Many of the soldiers attend our Sunday services, some occupying seats in the choir. In recognition of many kindnesses rendered by Rev. George J. Lane and members of our church, the Colonel decided on a parade to our church on Sunday, November 7th. The regimental band and the troops marched round the promenade to our church. The centre of the building was reserved for the troops, the large congregation filling up the side seats. Amongst them is a small group accustomed to attend our churches. It was a special delight to our congregation to hear the Welshmen sing the hymn "Jesus, lover of my soul," to the tune Aberystwith in our Supplement. Rev. G. J. Lane was the preacher. The chief officer present was so delighted with the vigour of the whole service that he suggested further parades to follow. The troops were so delighted with the inspiring service and the striking message that they came in large numbers again on their own to the evening, and a message of thanks was conveyed through one of their number to our minister.

Questions having arisen in various parts of the country as to the payment to be made by the Military Authorities where Sunday-school and other church buildings are required for the billeting of soldiers, or for the wounded, the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Compton Rickett, P.C.M.P., as President of the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches, has addressed an inquiry to the War Office on the subject. The following answer, date November 4th, has been received from the Rt. Hon. H. J. Tennant, M.P.:—"Schools and other educational institutions in which the Board of Education are interested are occupied for military purposes only in accordance with the arrangements which we have concluded with the Board. Generally speaking, this is a very convenient and economical way of accommodating troops when barracks or huts are not available, inasmuch as the premises are suitable in themselves, and we are liable only for the net additional

expenditure incurred by the local education authorities. Sunday-schools, however, are taken either by voluntary agreement at a rent, or under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, when compensation is awarded by the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission. The basis on which rent is negotiated and on which compensation is assessed by the Commission is the same, namely, direct and substantial loss due to military occupation. The essential difference from the financial point of view between the Council schools and a private school is that the former is maintained entirely out of public funds, while the latter is supported either from private sources or from its own profit-earning capacity. Any such loss of revenue is of course taken into account in assessing rent or compensation."

Our Church is strongly represented in the Chippenham District Endeavour Union. Last year Mrs. J. F. Freeth, an esteemed member of our Calne Church, was President, and Rev. A. Haigh is vice-President, and President-designate for 1916. At the annual meeting held at Calne Rev. F. J. O. Dyer was the special speaker.

Rev. Alfred Johnson, who is now labouring on the Walthamstow Station, observed Temperance Sunday in a practical way. After preaching temperance sermons he solicited pledges, and obtained quite a number. Mr. Johnson's address now is 96, Bedford-road, Walthamstow, N.E., and not as in the Minutes.

"Inquirer" desires to ascertain where the book, entitled "Religion, Morals and Manners" can be obtained, and the published price.

At the annual meeting of the Tenby and District Free Church Council Rev. George Freezer was unanimously elected President for the coming year. Mr. Freezer last year also held the important position of President of the South East Pembrokehire Band of Hope Union. This is the first time that ever a Primitive Methodist has held either position.

At Woodhouse Hill Church, Leeds Fourth Circuit, at a recent baptismal service conducted by Rev. W. S. Spencer, four generations were represented, the child's mother (Mrs. Firth), grandmother (Mrs. Leeming), and great-grandfather (Mr. T. Dickenson).

Rev. J. A. Alderson, of Reading, has during the past week been delivering a series of missionary speeches as deputation to the Swindon First Circuit. At most of the places visited the missionary revenue was in advance of last year. Mr. Alderson's services were greatly appreciated, and the missionary enthusiasm of our people was increased.

It is fifty-two years since Rev. Henry Carden preached his first sermon at Winchmore Hill, in the Chalfont St. Giles Branch of the High Wycombe Circuit, and he has been preaching without interruption ever since. He commenced preaching at the early age of twelve years.

The Donington Circuit is having a very prosperous time under the acceptable ministry of Rev. Gervase Hall. He is staying until 1917, when he will have spent six most fruitful years' ministry in the circuit.

Rev. H. H. Woodward, of Wisbech, with the sanction of his circuit and the General Committee, has joined the R.A.M.C. and has left for Aldershot, where he will receive training.

Mr. W. C. Skinner (son of Mr. H. Skinner, circuit steward of Tottenham), who joined the H.A.C. in June last, is now with his regiment in France. This famous regiment is now made an Officers Training Corps.

Mr. Percy Viner, a local preacher, choir-master and Sunday-school superintendent of the Witney Circuit, has joined the R.A.M.C. This is the second son Mr. C. Viner has in the Army.

Six young men have enlisted just lately from the Bethesda Church, Hull Third Circuit. They joined their regiments on November 15th. At the previous evening's service Rev. John Hall spoke appropriate words at the parting, and the choir sung an appropriate hymn. The loss of such devoted young men is keenly felt. Mr. J. R. Seymour, a local preacher from the Holderness-road Church, in the same circuit, and others also have enlisted.

Mr. Walter Bowes, from the Portobello Church, Hull, has again sailed for Australia for a second term of business service. While away he makes himself very useful among the Australian Methodists.

Rev. R. Wycherley at seventy-five years of age continues to render effective service in the pulpits of Wakefield and neighbourhood. On Temperance Sunday he preached two vigorous temperance sermons at Market-street, in the First Circuit. He is also a class leader at Market-street, and regularly meets the members of his class for fellowship every Thursday evening, where his ministrations are much appreciated.

Golden Weddings.

Uninterrupted association and unswerving loyalty so connect certain devoted workers to the fortunate church that possesses them that in thinking of the one it is natural to think of the other. This happy identification exists between Southfield (Armley, Leeds Sixth) and Mr. and Mrs. William Lord. It will delight a wide circle of friends to know that on the 23rd of this month Mr. and Mrs. Lord will celebrate their golden wedding. Mr. Lord was born in Aberdeen in 1842, and came, with his parents, to reside in Silver Royd Hill in 1850. Mrs. Lord was born in Wortley, and has been connected with Silver Royd and Southfield societies all her life. Their family consisted of four sons. Two are living, and are in business as woollen manufacturers with their father. Mr. Lord was secretary of the Silver Royd Hill Sunday-school when, with the late John Harrison, Wm. Dewhurst, and others, he was transferred to the new society at Southfield, with its fine premises in Wesley-road. They have been constant in attendance, generous in personal service, and liberal in financial contributions. Mrs. Lord has taken an active part in nearly every form of Church work, and

has been keenly interested in the Ladies' Missionary Auxiliary, the Orphanage Committee, the F.C.C. Rescue Home, and other agencies for good. Mr. Lord was treasurer of the trust for twenty years, accepting the position when the debt was about £3,000, and retaining it until the amount was nearly paid off, when he relinquished the office to Mr. W. H. Cooper. He has also done good work in the Sunday-school, where he served as teacher, superintendent and president of the Bible Class. In 1912 he received a diploma of honour for fifty years' service in the Sunday-school, and it is interesting to record that the diploma was presented by Mrs. J. J. Turner, the then president of the local Sunday-school Union, who herself had been one of Mr. Lord's scholars. In 1902, in company with Dr. Dalton and his son, Mr. J. E. Dalton, Mr. Lord visited Rome and other Continental towns. In 1910 he toured Canada and the United States, and with Rev. G. Bennett attended the World's Sunday-school Convention at Washington, representing our Church. Here he met Lord Bryce, and was introduced to President Taft. We trust that Mr. and Mrs. Lord may have before them many years of quiet service in the church to which they have freely given so many years of consecrated labour.

On Thursday, November 4th, at Gilkes-street, Middlesbrough, Mr. and Mrs. John Whaley celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. The schools were made very attractive for the occasion, and a large number of relatives and friends was present. A musical programme occupied the first part of the evening, when Miss Brompton, Miss F. Berriman, Mr. H. Crossgrove, Mr. Forbes, and Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Honeymay rendered excellent service. Supper followed, after which Mr. S. Leckenby, on behalf of the trustees, presented Mr. and Mrs. Whaley each with a gold-mounted umbrella, and referred to the many years he and Mr. Whaley had laboured together, both inside and outside of the church. Congratulations were offered, and good wishes expressed also by Revs. J. G. Bowran (an old circuit minister), F. W. Atkin, F. C. Challice, I. Graham (circuit ministers), Messrs. H. James, T. Wardle, O. Baines, and W. Berriman (son-in-law). Mr. Whaley, though visibly moved, made a fine reply, in which he thanked the trustees for their token of esteem, the friends for their presence, and the speakers for their kindly words, and expressed his gratitude that death had made no breach in the family so far. Mr. and Mrs. Whaley were married at Lancaster Parish Church, Durham. He was employed on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, and afterwards the N.E.R., and altogether was on the footplate fifty years, from which he retired in 1912. They came to Middlesbrough forty-six years ago, and attached themselves to Gilkes-street Church, where they have been loyal, generous, consistent members and workers, exercising an influence for good. Mr. Whaley is the only living trustee of the original board. The venerable couple have witnessed many changes in the church of their choice during their association with it, familiar forms disappearing and new faces making their advent, but they have been staunch and true, and with their family have furthered its interests in ways which cannot be tabulated. All wish for them "light at eventide."

IN MEMORIAM.

Mr. Robert Rathbone.

The Bolton Second Circuit, especially Atherton, is mourning the decease of Robert Rathbone, one of its most generous supporters and officials. He was born at Northwich in Cheshire, nurtured in a Primitive Methodist family, and was early associated with our cause. The training of the home and Sunday-school bore fruit, for in early years he found Christ the life and light of his soul. Under the ministry of Rev. D. T. Maylott, Rev. J. Yearseley and Mr. Rathbone were placed on the Plan as local preachers at the same time. There followed years of happy service, willingly and joyfully rendered. After some time at Birkenhead, Mr. Rathbone's business led him to locate at Atherton. He and his family at once associated themselves with our cause and rendered it yeoman service. He became a trustee, and was ever zealous for the welfare and progress of the church. He was a sound, practical, business man, and built up a good business reputation for his firm (R. Rathbone and Sons) as church builders. Ministers ever found a hospitable reception at his home. The recent death of his son, Mr. Harry Rathbone, was a serious blow to him, from which he really never recovered, as he had been ailing for some time from heart affection. He passed away on October 29th, aged sixty-six, having been a member and official for about forty-eight years. He leaves a widow, one son, and six daughters, viz.: Mrs. Rathbone, Mr. Tom Rathbone, Mrs. Fred Boydell, Mrs. Dunnico (wife of Rev. H. Dunnico), Mrs. Unsworth, Mrs. Ellis Green, Mrs. H. Markham Cook (wife of Rev. H. M. Cook, Fernando Po), Mrs. Featon (wife of Rev. Tom Featon, Bradford). The funeral took place, November 1st, at Atherton Cemetery, conducted by Rev. F. W. Wilkinson. On Sunday, November 7th, Rev. F. W. Wilkinson held a memorial service in the Alma-street Chapel, Atherton.

MARRIAGE.

The marriage of Miss G. I. Cooper, daughter of Rev. J. Cooper, of Eynesbury, to Mr. A. S. Waylen, of Pewsey, Wilts, took place at St. Neots Congregational Church on Wednesday, October 27th, Revs. J. W. Leggett and J. Whale officiating. The bride, who was in white satin, with bridal veil, was attended by Miss A. Jakens (step-sister) and Miss L. Waylen (sister of the bridegroom). Mr. F. W. Harding, of Eynesbury, was best man. The bride was given away by her father. Miss Day presided at the organ. A reception followed at the Manse, Eynesbury. Later in the day Mr. and Mrs. Waylen left for Brighton, where the honeymoon is being spent, after which they will reside at the "Laurels," Pewsey. The presents were numerous and costly.

AMOS, THE FEARLESS PROPHET.

International Lesson for Sunday, Nov. 28, 1915:
Amos v. 1-15. G.T., Jeremiah xxiii. 28.

By Henry J. Pickett.

I.—Amos takes rank with the greatest of the world's speakers for God. Among the humblest of them all in human origin and position, he takes place with the first, and is a striking illustration of Paul's great word in 1 Cor. i. 27-28. We have already studied the reign of Joash. (See Lessons for November 7th.) Amos belongs to the reign of his son, Jeroboam II., whose reign in Israel marked the height of prosperity, running side by side with the worst extravagances of vice and oppression. Amos, a shepherd, or trader in sheep's wool, and a dresser of sycamores, belonging to the outskirters of Judah, away down toward the Dead Sea, was a countryman, a student of nature, a simple, passionate, whole-souled lover of the truth and of God. In the pursuit of his occupation he would make yearly journeys to the great markets of Jerusalem, Bethel, ten miles farther north, Gilgal, seven miles further, Samaria, the capital, twenty miles further still, and possibly up to Damascus itself. Here he would see and learn first hand how shocking was the life of the people, how the God he loved was insulted, how the poor were oppressed, and how the great power of the north, Assyria, threatened to overwhelm the land. Musing away in the open places of his desert home upon the apostasy of the north, he could no longer keep silence, and with a ruggedness and vehemence born of strong feeling, he brings home to them their crime, and calls them to repentance.

II.—The teacher will make it clear that the prophets were the true patriots, the warmest friends of the people in whose interests they spoke, and for whose exaltation they wrought. People who allure us to ruin, who, by their example and invitation, persuade us to do wrong, though they use the sacred term of "friend," they are, in reality, our worst enemies. And, when we have followed the advice and example of such "friends," and are brought face to face with the penalty of broken law, and the ruin which wrong-doing inevitably verges to, our real "friend" is the one who urges repentance, implores us to make confession, and points us to the source and method of amendment. Such persons are, to us, prophets of God, used as Divine instruments to save us from final wreck. Such a friend was Amos to Israel.

III.—And the beginning of such a gracious ministry is in

The Call to Righteousness

or in a return to the true centre (vers. 1-6). (a) The first part of the call is a declaration of judgment (vers. 1-3), and to judgment as the minister of righteousness. The "Virgin" here is the nation, Northern Israel, and the judgment is a declaration that war is certain, seeing they have so persistently and shockingly forsaken the true God. We live in a moral world. We cannot persistently do wrong and escape penalty. The world itself would fall to pieces if that were possible. Vice, persisted in, works to suicide. Wilfulness, followed up, brings woeful want, moral if not physical, often both. (b) The second part of the call is to put the true once more in the place of the false. Bethel, Gilgal, and Beersheba were the central plague spots of idolatry, sending its poison over all the land. Beth-el shall become Beth-aven, meaning falsehood and perdition; literally it means Beth-el, house of God, shall go to the devil! All apostasy and idolatry is giving the place to some hobby, person or things which ought to be solemnly set apart and occupied solely by God. Our love-faculty is God's first right. Let that be chiefly given to anything or to any person other than God and we go to Bethel, Gilgal, Beersheba—that is, we turn our very places of worship to idolatry, we spoil everything we touch, and what should assist us to the best is itself doomed to destruction.

IV.—An essential part of the true friend's ministry to us and to his time is

The Exposure of Tyranny.

Idolatry—that is, love of some thing or person rather than God—perverts everything. It calls evil good. It says might is right. It abases or flings righteousness prone on the earth, as though it were fit only for the gutter (ver. 7). It hates those who rebuke evil, and finds for them a scaffold. It abolishes rights, has no regard for the weak and the poor, even robbing them of their all (vers. 10-12). It throttles those who feel the wrong of it all, yet whose "prudence" or love of self-preservation and quietness makes them keep silent (ver. 13). All sin is tyranny. It steals in by a trick and a lie. Its life and work are a constant fraud. And part of its delusion and its tyranny lies in hiding the truth concerning its rottenness. While promising its victims a fine time, a merry life, freedom from worry, it is all the time, by repetition, and through evil desire, forging its chain of death, until presently nothing but the miracle of Divine grace can break it. In the presence of such a foe of God and man we ought not to keep silent. We should avoid the "prudent" selfishness, which sees the danger, but avoids mentioning the unpleasant thing. All the Lord's people are in this sense called to be "prophets." It is cruelty to foresee danger and not sound the warning. We ought to be prepared to sever friendships and risk any material loss rather than stifle the warning voice or decline the ministry of a true friend.

V.—But this is only part of our work. The call to righteousness and the exposure of wrong requires us to herald forth

The Conditions of Life

(vers. 14-15). Here Amos strikes the truly evangelical note, found in Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, and enlarged upon by the herald of Jesus, until it found its

truest expression in His wondrous invitations of grace. The eternal conditions of life are stated by Amos. They are: (1) *A right love, including the right companionship* (ver. 14); (2) *a right practice, including the whole realm of daily duty* (ver. 15), represented by the phrase, "justice at the city gate." Stated in New Testament terms, the law of life eternal is this: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbour as thyself." How simple these conditions are, yet how profound! How easy, if God is really loved, yet how impossible, if we want to love God and mammon! How immediately available, if we rise up at once and follow Jesus, yet how distant, if we hope to do so at some time! So that to these two conditions of life, or, rather, to this one condition, with its sides looking Godward and manward, we may name these as aids: (1) *Earnestness*, (2) *immediateness*, (3) *completeness*.

Guild of Kind Hearts.

SAVED BY THE BIBLE.

A hundred years ago there was in Bristol a minister named Rev. Thomas Roberts. Before he went to Bristol he was minister at a little chapel in the fishing village of Brixham, in Devonshire. A poor, good woman belonging to his church had a son who joined the Royal Navy. When he left home his mother gave him a Bible, and made him promise to read it regularly. She did more than that, she asked him to carry it always in his pocket, so that wherever he went he would have his Bible with him. He made his promise, and it was lucky for him that he did. One day, when they were fighting with a French man-of-war, a bullet struck him. He felt it hit him, but as he did not seem to be hurt he went on fighting. When the engagement was over and the day was ended he took out his Bible. Then he made a strange discovery—the bullet was in the Bible. It had pierced the cover and gone more than halfway through—through Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Samuel, Job, Psalms, Proverbs—until it reached Ecclesiastes. There it had stopped, with its nose against the first verse of the twelfth chapter. He read the words at which the bullet pointed: "Remember now Thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

He had read his Bible every day, but he had not been a good lad. He had not loved God or tried to serve Him. But he felt sure that God had directed the bullet and caused it to stop at that particular place. At once he resolved to be a Christian, and he knelt down, asked God to pardon all his sins and make him His true child. When he got back home he told the minister what had happened to him, and asked him to baptise him in the little Baptist chapel. As they went down into the water the minister heard him saying softly:

"Plagues and deaths around me fly,
Till He wills I cannot die;
Not a single shaft can hit
Till the love of God sees fit."

It was good for him that he had such a good mother, and it was well that he kept his promise to her. Keeping his promise kept him from being killed by a French bullet, and saved him also from being ruined by sin.

I wonder if every boy has a Bible—all his very own. When I was twelve years of age one was given to me for a Sunday-school prize, and I resolved to read it through during the next year. I began with the wonderful first verse, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," and nearly every day I read some chapters. Before the next prize distribution I had read every word of my Bible. There were lots and lots of things I didn't understand, but I am mighty glad that I persevered. Many times have I read it through since then, and often have I heard the voice of God speaking to me through these Holy Writings. People who are ill and cannot get to God's house to listen to a preacher get out the Bible, and as they read they hear the voice of God.

Not long ago a missionary in Burmah went on a long tour into a part of the country where the Gospel had never been preached. He travelled four hundred miles, and then he was told that a man had come eight miles to see him and speak with him. Most surprising of all, the stranger was a Christian. "Eighteen months before he had bought a Burmese Bible, and, taking it home, had slowly read and re-read the whole of it from Genesis to Revelation. As he read God spoke to him. He prayed. He became a changed man, and in his new-found love for God and our Saviour he journeyed a hundred and fifty miles to the Government headquarters to see a missionary. Alas! there was no missionary there. "Bitterly disappointed, he returned home to live a Christian life and to try to win his neighbours for Christ." Then, as soon as he heard that a missionary had come in the neighbourhood, he hurried off to see him, that he might confess his faith in Jesus and become a member of Christ's Church. Before this he had never heard any human lips speak of God and His grace, but the quiet reading of God's Word had brought to him the knowledge of sin and salvation.

Let every boy and girl read earnestly the Bible, particularly the Four Gospels, which tell the undying story of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Guild. A Host of New Members.

We welcome the following to our Guild:—Per Miss O. Blythe, Thornhill Edge, Dewsbury; 7940 Bertha Blythe, 7941 May Lodge, 7942 Olive Crossley, 7943 Ella Crossley,

7944 Hetty Sutcliffe, 7945 Blanche Ennd Peace, 7946 Phyllis Hetty Croft, 7947 Annie Busby, 7948 Nora Twiby, 7949 Ivy Hooley, 7950 May Clarkson, 7951 Gladys Ramsden, 7952 Amy Milner, 7953 Daisy Cleveland Peace, 7954 Mary Jane Goldthorpe, 7955 Claude Poppleton. Well done, Thornhill Edge! From Halifax: 7956 Miss Whitaker, 7957 Miss Beatrice Hart, 7958 Dorothy Marshall, 7959 Winnie Rutter. From Beeston Hill, Leeds: Per Miss Nettie Barber: 7960 Alice Eldin, 7961 Mary Chambers, 7962 Gerrie Atkinson, 7963 Rhoda E. Atkinson, 7964 Gladys Clough, 7965 Doris Clough, 7966 Nellie Buttress, 7967 Gladys Brazier, 7968 May Stoye, 7969 Alice Upton, 7970 Emily Blakelock, 7971 Gwladys Capes, 7972 Eveline Addison, 7973 Rhoda Cross, 7974 Edith Wilkinson, 7975 Doris Hargreaves, 7976 Mabel Hartley. Per Mr. B. Warhurst: 7977 Willie Hardgrave, 7978 Ernest Bewell, 7979 Willie Wainwright, 7980 Henry Shaw, 7981 Norman Shaw, 7982 Leonard Shires, 7983 Frank Barber, 7984 Arthur Reeve, 7985 Sydney Clayton, 7986 Sam Western, 7987 Sam Peck, 7988 Arthur Pickup, 7989 Stanley Upton, 7990 Norman Pratt, 7991 Stanley Bettison, 7992 Robert Buttress, 7993 Willie Wiggins. Well done, Beeston Hill Sunday-school!

New members received for the Guild at any time. Send on name, age and address, with promise to be kind. One penny stamp to be sent for each badge required, and an extra stamp for postage. Mark letters "Guild," and send to Rev. ARTHUR JUDS, 218, Chippinghouse-road, Sheffield

MARY AND MARTHA.

Endeavour Topic for Week beginning Nov. 21:

Luke x. 38-42, John xii. 1-4.

The Two Sisters.—The Bible depicts character as no other book. It gives life-size portraits of both men and women with a wealth of detail which often astonishes us. It never fails to bring out the prominent gift or quality of the life, and ever shows the fundamental defect of the bad or the excellence of the good. This is especially the case with those men and women who were in any way associated with Jesus. In His presence they are shown in their true colours. This is true of Mary and Martha in their home at Bethany, a favourite resort and welcome retreat of the Saviour's. Its homely shelter and generous hospitality He highly appreciated. Yet how true to their natures were these sisters in their welcome and service to Jesus! Martha, whose name means "mistress," possessing a practical and active nature, was "cumbered about much serving," troubled about many things. She was a good cook, an ideal housekeeper, a natural worker, ever busy, full of duties and ready to serve. Mary, on the other hand, was of the reserved, quiet and meditative order. She was passive yet confident, her sister active, but uncertain and distracted. When Lazarus died she calmly awaited the arrival of Jesus, but restless Martha must go out to meet Him. On another occasion, when He called on His way to Jerusalem and had supper with them, "she sat at His feet," but Martha "served."

The Two Types of Womanhood.—The two sisters represent types of womanhood, both of which are essential in this workaday world. Perhaps the Marthas are more plentiful than the Marys. It is said that "comparisons are odious," but in this case it was inevitable, for in the first incident Martha's criticism of Mary invited the contrast, whilst in the second the criticism of Judas demanded it. On both occasions Jesus defended her. Both types have their dangers and faults, as well as their great gifts and good qualities. The former are often the result of the latter. They are "the weakness of strength," "the spots on the sun," "the other side of the shield." The Marthas are usually impatient with their less active sisters. Their attitude is that of Mrs. Poyser to Dinah Morris in "Adam Bede." Martha was prepared to scold Mary. To her she was idle and useless—a good woman spoiled, in whom there was a "lot of good work lost." The Marthas make this world sweet and wholesome. Spiders hate them, but hungry men and lads love them. Life to Martha meant service. She made a good neighbour, was equally at home at funerals or at weddings. To-day she is busy making munitions, doing Red Cross work, and forwarding parcels of cakes to the soldiers. Yet there is a place in the home and the nation for Mary, with her love and faith, her prayers and silent ministry, for life is more than eating and drinking, and "man does not live by bread alone."

The Two Types of Discipleship.—Both sisters were true disciples of Jesus, and had their representatives among the original twelve. Martha is like Peter and Mary like John. The women were the complement of each other, just as the men were. They should be thought of together, and should act together, serving the same Master. Both had a place in the Bethany home, and served according to their respective ability, gifts and temperament. Martha, by the supper, ministered unto His physical wants, and Mary, by sympathy and fellowship, unto the needs of His heart and mind. For not only by what we do for Jesus counts, but also what we permit Him to do for us. Doing is important, and so is "being." "Mary chose the better part," said Jesus, by which He meant that she did the right thing FOR HER in the circumstances. He needed sympathy as well as service, love as well as loaves. She did Him good as she sat at His feet listening to His message and receiving His love, or as she "broke the box in silence and let the fragrance speak." There is a real place for both types of disciple in the Church to-day. Martha must organise bazaars, teas, concerts, serve in canteens and do such-like work. It is real Christian service. And Mary must write her letters full of the fragrant spirit of Christ to the soldier, pray for him, visit his home and comfort his aged parents, doing whatever she can in her quiet way to spread the Kingdom of God.

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London: **JOSEPH JOHNSON**, Primitive Methodist Publishing House, Holborn Hall, E.C.

Church News.

Batley.

Chapel anniversary services were held at Wellington-street on Sunday, October 31st, when Rev. H. Pickup preached to good congregations. The monthly mid-week sermon was preached on the Tuesday following by Rev. W. Younger, of Harrogate. The audience testified to the popularity of the preacher and the value of these monthly efforts. Mr. Younger lectured at night on "The European War and the Soul of Nations." A great recruiting rally was being held in the town at the same time, with Mr. Will Crooks as the speaker, yet, despite this counter-attraction, Mr. Younger had a fine audience. The lecture was a masterly utterance. Mr. George Holland, of Harrogate, presided at the lecture as a mark of his appreciation of Rev. T. Pearson Ellis' work.

Birkenhead Second.

Mount Taber Church anniversary, held October 31st and November 1st, was a great success. On the Sunday Councillor E. Vaughan, J.P. (Mayor of Crewe), served admirably as preacher. His messages were most helpful in the dark and difficult days through which we are passing. On Monday, November 1st, a full church welcomed Rev. A. T. Guttry when he lectured on "My Visit to Our Army in France." The audience was the largest we have seen at any lecture in the church. The people were more than interested, they were entranced with the recital of the courage and cheer of our sons in France. It brought comfort, too, to many who have sons serving abroad their King and country. Rev. M. T. Pickering expressed thanks to all who had served so effectively. Financial results £26, which is part of an effort to raise £100. A great number of young men are serving under the colours, and these the church remembers in many ways.

Boston.

The chapel anniversary proved a real success. The sermons on the first and second Sundays, preached respectively by Revs. J. Dodd Jackson and T. H. Kedward, were a means of deep spiritual good. The hymns from the new Supplement and a Sunday afternoon musical service, helped by some real musical talent, made all the singing to be a delight. Mr. G. H. Dunn presided, and Rev. J. Dodd Jackson lectured on "Number One." Our annual tea was much larger than the previous years, and the public meeting, under the presidency of Mr. J. A. Tunnard, J.P., with Revs. E. Bocock and T. H. Kedward as speakers, made a fine conclusion to the services. Mr. R. Salter gave a hopeful financial statement.

Bridlington.

Successful church anniversary services were held at St. John Street Church on November 7th and 8th. The preacher on the Sunday was Councillor T. D. Fenby, J.P. In the afternoon a splendid musical programme was provided. The soloists were Mr. Wilfred Hudson, of Yeadon, and Master Harry Freer, of Leeds. Mr. H. Holden presided at the organ. A fine address was given by Councillor C. J. Rhodes, of Guiseley. There was a good audience at the public meeting on the Monday. The speakers were Sir Luke White, M.P., Councillor T. D. Fenby, J.P., and Rev. George Tucker. Councillor C. J. Rhodes, who had rendered fine service at the organ on the Sunday, should have been the chairman at the public meeting, but was unable to return from Guiseley. In spite of all difficulties, many and real, we were able to announce the income was £30. This is the highest amount obtained for some years.

Bromsgrove.

On November 7th and 8th special services and recitals by Madame Jones Moss were held at Birmingham-road Church. On the Sunday our minister preached to good congregations, and in the afternoon a programme, provided by Madame Jones Moss and the choir, was greatly appreciated. Three items were contributed by the talented elocutionist. At the evening service on the Monday a good company, presided over by Mr. A. Rutter, greatly enjoyed the recital by Madame Moss. Solos were rendered by Miss Hattie Nokes (Baptist) and Miss L. Rea. The financial results, too, were gratifying. The sale of a patriotic poem, written expressly for Madame Jones Moss, is adding substantially to our Soldiers' Hut Fund.

Castle Gresley.

The Young People celebrated their annual effort on Sunday, October 31st. The special preacher was Rev. W. B. Tunley. In the afternoon a special service was held, under the presidency of Mr. J. E. Kinley (Overseal). Solos were

beautifully given by Misses I. and M. Richards. Short address also by Rev. W. B. Tunley on "Music." A feature of the day was the singing of all Supplement hymns. An augmented choir rendered special singing at each service. Good collections were taken. The musical arrangements were under the charge of Miss Jackson.

Chorley.

The anniversary at Ouncliffe-street was held on Sunday, November 7th, when Rev. J. E. Hughes (in the regretted absence of Rev. J. Travis) was the preacher. In the afternoon the choir gave an excellent musical service, with Mr. Joel Footell as leader and Mr. A. Watson organist. The attendances through the day were very encouraging, and the offerings for the trust fund amounted to upwards of £17, an increase on last year.

Church Gresley.

Two rounds of meetings for the African Fund have recently been held in the circuit. In October we had the efficient service of Rev. T. Stones, formerly of West Africa, who addressed meetings at Castle Gresley, Donisthorpe, Overseal and Linton Heath. For meetings at Church Gresley, Granville Estate, Woodville, Albert Village and Hastings-road we had the stirring advocacy of Rev. H. Markham Cook, just returned from Fernando Po. The meetings were held from November 7th to 11th. The deputation's accounts of life among the aborigines were subjects of which the listener could not tire. His address, at the last meeting of the week, on John Petty Sogo would, if amplified and written, make one of the best of missionary books and stir the hearts of all loyal "Prims." The financial result of the nine meetings is about £94. That is about the same amount as last year's raisings.

Colne.

In connection with the Adult School we held our "Ambulance Sunday" on November 7th. Mr. C. H. Frankland presided. Mr. H. Priestley read the lesson and a splendid address was given by Rev. E. W. Challenger. The choir rendered an anthem, under the leadership of Mr. J. P. Hey. Mr. T. Birch also sang a solo. Organist, Mr. W. N. Petty. The members of the St. John Ambulance Association (Colne Centre) and the First Aid Evening Class paraded to the service, under the supervision of Supt. Scott. The collection taken was £3 15s. 7d. for the association funds.

Coventry.

The Yorkshire Nightingale has just paid a most successful return visit to Paradise Church. Crowded congregations gathered on Sunday, and an intensely interesting feature of the concert recital on Monday was the presence of a number of wounded soldiers from the local hospital. A local friend kindly provided refreshments and other gifts for the soldiers, and a delightful gathering was held.

Croydon.

The church anniversary sermons at Laud-street Church were preached by Rev. Geo. Shapcott on November 7th. On the Monday Mr. John Shirley gave a public tea in celebration of fifty years' connection with the Laud-street Church. A large number of friends gathered for the occasion. He also presided at the public meeting. Mr. O. Witts leading in prayer. The chairman gave interesting details of many events, of its ministers, its efforts and its successes. Rev. Geo. Shapcott, through indisposition, had to return home. Rev. G. Trusler and several others paid high tribute to the valuable services of Mr. and Mrs. Shirley. Miss Eva Shirley sang a solo, and the band played several selections. Rev. G. Trusler presented Mr. Shirley with a beautiful umbrella, it being not only a jubilee, but the silver wedding day of Mr. and Mrs. Shirley.

Darlaston.

On Monday last a circuit Endeavour rally was held in the King's Hill Church. The chair was taken by Rev. A. Taylor (resident minister). A solo (composed by one of the C.E. members) was rendered by Mr. A. Small, accompanied by Mr. J. Ball, after which Rev. John Watts gave an inspiring address. Rev. H. Aldridge, the District C.E. secretary, addressed the meeting on the "Churches and Amusements." Thanks were accorded to all who had taken part by Mr. J. Davies and Mr. H. Davis.

The Band of Hope anniversary was held on Sunday last, when sermons were preached by Rev. F. L. Cull, of Oldham. In the afternoon the Adult Bible Class was conducted by Mr. J. Griffiths and an address given by Mr. Cull. At the evening service the choir gave an anthem, conducted by Mr. A. E. Blewitt (organist). Councillor Richard Bayley and Mrs. Bayley, of Central Church, on Thursday

celebrated the coming of age of their son Richard. Many guests were invited to luncheon in the schoolroom. Mr. Richard Lees, the veteran of the church, spoke in high terms of the young man, and wished him all the best for the future. This was heartily supported. Mr. Richard finds much time for work at our church. He is one of the secretaries of the Sunday-school, deputy organist and a member of the choir. His father, the circuit steward and treasurer of the missionary and other funds, is well known throughout our Church and Connexion. A musical programme was arranged by Mr. Ernest Blewitt, the organist and choir-master, over which Rev. Abel Taylor and Mr. R. Lees presided in turns. Mr. and Mrs. Bayley intend to further celebrate the event by a generous gift to our church and schools.

Derby First.

We have just concluded a very successful Gospel mission at Mount-street. The mission commenced on October 23rd and went on until November 1st. The missionary was Sister Bessie, of the South-East London Mission. The services were numerous attended, and the addresses and exhortations of Sister Bessie were powerful and effective. We cannot tabulate the good that was done. There was a great work among the scholars. The mission came to an end with a faith tea, which was numerous patronised, after which Sister Bessie gave a lecture on "Scenes and Sidelights of London Slums." Mrs. A. J. Taylor presided, supported by Mrs. H. Hodgkinson and Rev. R. Smith.

Durham.

The Sacriston Church has been favoured with a visit from the well-known evangelist, Mr. Joseph Carey, of Thornley, who has conducted a very helpful three weeks' mission. Several people have decided to live for Christ. The mission opened on October 16th with a well-attended service, conducted chiefly by men known as rough diamonds, now useful workers in the church. On Saturday night, October 23rd, Mr. Carey gave an exceedingly interesting lecture, being the story of his life, after which a successful faith supper was held. Throughout the whole period of the mission Mr. Carey exhibited great depths of spiritual feeling and earnestness and anxious longings for the salvation of his hearers. People from all parts of the district came to the services, and on each Sunday the church was filled. The closing days of the mission increased in interest and spiritual fervour, and on the last night, November 4th, the missionary lectured on "Impressions and Visions of My Life." It was a grand finish.

Gateshead First.

The sixth anniversary of Joicey-road Church was held on Sunday and Wednesday of last week. Rev. S. Palmer was the preacher. A musical service, presided over by Mr. R. Farish, was held in the afternoon. The artists were Miss Ryder, Messrs. Kedleston and Dawkin, and the Bensham Quartette. There were good congregations. On Wednesday the annual tea was given and served by ladies of the congregation. In the evening Rev. S. Palmer lectured on "Belgium: The Cockpit of Europe," illustrated by limelight views. Mr. T. Clark presided. Mr. T. Whitfield, trust secretary, read the report, which showed the proceeds of the anniversary to be £35, an increase of £15 on last year. All helpers were heartily thanked.

The missionary anniversary has just been held. The round comprised four churches. Rev. S. Horton was the deputation, and served us well. In the morning he preached at Sunderland-road, and in the evening at Durham-road Church, to large congregations. The preachers at the other churches were Revs. W. A. French, W. Dawson and S. Palmer, and Mr. W. Carr, jun. On Sunday afternoon a great young people's demonstration was held in Durham-road Church, when twenty-eight scholars from three of the schools gave "Africa's Hope." Mr. E. H. Carr was chairman. On Monday afternoon the Women's Missionary Federation met under the presidency of Mrs. J. Fitzpatrick, and Revs. H. J. Taylor and S. Horton spoke. A public tea followed, given by Miss Almond, daughter of the late Mr. G. E. Almond. In the evening a great united meeting was held of the two Gateshead circuits. Mr. F. Jones was chairman. Again the speakers were Revs. H. J. Taylor and S. Horton. Both did exceedingly well. The choir sang "We Never Will Bow Down" and the "Hallelujah Chorus." For enthusiasm, numbers and money the anniversary has been the best for years. The total for half of the churches in the first circuit was £50 0s. 5d., and for the whole of the churches in the second circuit £95, an increase for the two circuits of more than £20. Revs. J. Fitzpatrick and W. Dawson read the reports,

and Rev. J. Jopling expressed hearty thanks to all.

Glemsford.

The annual missionary services were held on Sunday, November 7th, when we were favoured with a visit from Rev. J. Mayles, who preached with great acceptance. The annual missionary tea and meeting was held on the following Monday. Addresses were given by Rev. O. Greenwood (United Methodist), Rev. J. Mayles, and Mr. H. F. Stretch. A special effort was made to increase the missionary revenue this year, so as to take advantage of Sir W. P. Hartley's offer, last year's total being more than doubled, the total proceeds being £5 0s. 9d. During the evening solos were rendered by Miss Stella Jenkinson, and a duet by Mr. and Mrs. Collison, of Venice.

Halwhistle.

The annual missionary effort was most successful. At Halwhistle the proceeds were £24 7s. 9d.; Cowburn, £2 16s.; Henshaw, £27 16s. 7d.; Greenhead, £7; Coanwood, £5; making a total of £47 0s. 4d. The deputation, Revs. T. C. Shewell and J. T. Gallon, did splendidly. The other preachers were Rev. J. E. Leuty and Mr. T. D. Bland. Our chairmen served us with marked ability and liberality—Messrs. J. E. Waugh, J. W. Haslop and W. Henderson. We have contributed to the Army Huts' Fund £5 15s. 3d. (second collection). On Wednesday last we were favoured with a visit from Rev. Samuel Palmer, who preached in the afternoon and lectured in the evening. Rev. J. E. Leuty presided. The offerings were for trust funds.

Horbury.

At Thornhill Edge on Saturday, November 6th, in connection with the chapel anniversary, a public tea and meeting were held. Mr. John Weatherburn, of Huddersfield, took the chair, when Rev. David S. Lees gave an interesting lecture on "Mark Twain." The services were continued on the Sunday, when Rev. F. Morgan Ridge preached in the morning, after which Mr. G. Outhwaite, of Horbury, made a presentation to the church of a handsome marble baptismal font. In the afternoon the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Peace, gave a musical service. In the evening there was another good congregation, when Mr. A. Lake, of Horbury, was the preacher.

Ikeston.

The "Women's Own" anniversary at the Bath-street Church was a great success. Mrs. Fairhurst, of Rochdale, was the special preacher—the third year she has occupied this position. In the afternoon a musical service was held. The Mayress (Mrs. J. A. Macdonald) occupied the chair. Miss Prince, of Heanor, was the soloist, and anthems were given by the ladies' choir, Miss Taylor being the organist. On Monday the "At Home" was a great success. Mrs. (Dr.) Wood presided, supported by Mrs. S. Shaw. Solos, etc., were rendered by Misses Prince, Wilkes, L. Woolley, and Mr. and Mrs. Henson. Rev. J. Walton gave an address, Mr. P. Watchorne being the pianist. A telegram from Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Clark was read and greatly appreciated. The total proceeds of the effort amounted to £25.

Jarrow-on-Tyne.

On Sunday anniversary services were held at Argyle-street, Hebburn, the preacher being Rev. Joseph Reavley, of South Shields. Large companies attended morning and evening, and also at the musical service in the afternoon. On Monday, November 1st, Mr. Reavley lectured, under the presidency of Mr. Oxley (South Moor), on "The Great War and Why the Allies Will Win." Both sermons and lecture were highly appreciated. The coffee supper was well patronised. The financial result was highly satisfactory. £54 was taken, £45 of which has been invested in C.A.A. towards New Church Building Fund.

Keighley Second.

The missionary anniversary was held last week. The deputation (Rev. W. Norcross) has served us well. His lantern lectures attracted large numbers of people, and his descriptions of "Missionary Life in Nigeria" were most interesting. The preachers on the Sunday were Revs. W. Norcross and R. Bolton and Mr. W. Dawson. The results of the anniversary are most gratifying, and are as follows:—West-lane, £18 3s. 11d.; Morton Banks, £4 2s. 2d.; Oakworth-road, £8, each place being in advance of last year. Besides this Mr. Norcross has obtained £23 towards a new church at Oyubia.

Leeds Fourth.

The anniversary services at Joseph-street were conducted by Mr. Barnet

Kenyon, M.P. He preached powerful sermons, and gave a rousing address at the public meeting. Rev. E. Barrett also gave a good speech, as did the chairman, Mr. W. H. Cooper. The Hunslet Wesleyan Choir gave a fine musical service, which was much appreciated. Mr. P. Gilston, J.P., presided. The services were continued on November 6th and 7th, the preacher and lecturer being Rev. E. H. Pittwood, of Hull, whose services were greatly appreciated. The church choir gave a fine rendering of the beautiful cantata "Shepherd of Souls." Mr. J. T. Emmett (Congregationalist) presided.

Leicester First.

The second of a series of monthly services was held at Anstey on Sunday, November 7th. The preacher was the minister, Rev. W. Tootell. At the evening service Miss A. Bailey, of Leicester, sang "Sun of My Soul" in a very tasteful manner. The services were very successful, the congregations being good.

Liverpool Third.

Zion Jubilee Chapel anniversary services were celebrated on October 31st, when Rev. J. Dudley preached twice and gave an address in the afternoon at a musical service, presided over by Mr. A. R. H. Malcolm. A public meeting followed on the Monday, under the presidency of Mr. S. Davies, A.R.S.I., who had been attached to the cause, along with his father, in the early days. Mr. Morris Jones gave the report and Mr. Dudley was the principal speaker, supported by the circuit ministers, Revs. J. W. Waddell and A. Hird. There were splendid congregations at all the services, and the financial result much in advance of previous years. The church and school owe much to Mr. M. Jones and his family, who have worked with great loyalty for many years.

London (Caledonian Road).

The Endeavour anniversary was held on November 7th and 11th. On the Saturday the members met for prayer. The Sunday services were conducted by Rev. W. Roberts, assisted by members of the C.E. In the afternoon a missionary demonstration was rendered by the juniors, under the direction of Miss L. Ridgwell, Miss D. Plummer officiating at the piano. The evening meeting will live in the memory for a long while. Mr. Scott sang solos with great effect. On the following Thursday the annual social gathering took place, presided over by Rev. W. Roberts. The report of the secretary was most encouraging. Sister Mabel, from St. George's Hall, gave a most interesting address. Mr. W. Grimsey sang a solo, and Misses Roberts and Case a duet. Rev. W. Roberts thanked all who had assisted to make the anniversary a success.

Marple.

On Sunday, November 7th, special musical services were held. A good number of old-fashioned hymns were sung, and also special music from the oratorios. The principals were Miss Hambleton, Miss Thornley, Mr. Hough and Mr. Maidment. The singing, which was assisted by an excellent orchestra, was conducted by Mr. Birkenshaw. Mr. T. J. Marlow was the organist. The afternoon service was presided over by Mr. A. Simon, who also gave an appropriate address. The evening service was conducted by Rev. H. Haynes (circuit minister). The collections amounted to £10 for the trust funds.

A very successful missionary round was held October 24th-27th. Rev. H. Markham Cook, recently returned from Fernando Po, proved an excellent deputation. All meetings and services were good. Missionary interest is increasing, as proved by the increased revenue in the last few years. The circuit missionary total is £6 up on last year, being altogether £25 15s. 3d. Marple, £15 17s. (increase £3); Compstall, £7 1s. 3d. (increase £2 5s.); Hollywood, £2 12s. 6d. (increase £1). Several new boxes were again applied for. Each week-evening meeting took the form of a missionary social, at

which Mr. Cook gave very interesting and helpful addresses.

Quarry Bank.

On Sunday and Monday was celebrated the anniversary of our church. The sermons were preached by Rev. F. S. Wilkinson, of Goole. The choir rendered the anthems, "How Lovely are the Messengers" and "By Babylon's Wave." The soloist was Miss M. Bellingham, of Blackheath, and the reciter Master F. Richards. Selections were also rendered by the choir quartette—Miss Dorothy Shaw, Miss S. Maybury, Mr. A. Heywood and Mr. G. Heywood. Mr. L. Richards was the organist, and Councillor A. Shaw, J.P., conducted. On the Monday Rev. R. Fletcher presided, and a special programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered, and Rev. J. S. Wilkinson gave an address. The tea was given by Councillor A. and Mrs. Shaw, who also presented to the church china ware for one hundred persons, each piece bearing the name of the church. Rev. R. Fletcher spoke of the many acts of generosity on the part of Councillor and Mrs. Shaw, and received, on behalf of the church, this further presentation of china ware. The anniversary was most successful.

Rhosymedre.

The first round of missionary services just concluded have been altogether successful. The meetings have been splendid in attendance and excellent in tone. Rev. A. J. Chessum did good service as deputation, supported by Rev. S. Buckley, circuit minister. Mrs. W. Richards, Messrs. C. W. Fawcett, K. Wynn and A. Humphries presided at the respective places. The proceeds were £3 in advance of previous year. Rhosymedre, £15 5s. 8d.; Ruabon, £5 3s. 3d.; Rhos, £5 8s. 7d.; Copperas, £1 15s.; total, £30 12s. 6d.

Rotherham Second.

The month's revival services at the Holmes Church were concluded on Thursday last, when a public tea and meeting were held. A good company sat down to the tea, generously provided by the members and friends. After the tea the final meeting of the mission was held. Stirring addresses were given by Mr. D. Brooks-bank (chairman) and Rev. H. Jones, and then Mrs. Morris (the missioner) gave her final charge to those who during the mission had decided for Christ. This district has been greatly blessed by the visit, and it is expected that at least ten of those who professed conversion will become useful members of the church. By her assiduous visiting Mrs. Morris won her way into the hearts and homes of the people.

Southport Second.

The chapel anniversary sermons, preached by Rev. Principal Pickett, were of a very high order. Large congregations assembled, and the musical service in the afternoon was one of the best we have had. The soloists did well, and Mr. Bannister, the organist, accompanied splendidly. Two selections were rendered by Mr. Herbert Griffiths, who is to preside at the organ during Mr. Bannister's absence with the colours. On the Monday tea was generously given by Mr. and Mrs. S. Gerrard. A large company attended, amongst whom were many wounded soldiers as well as recruits. The attendance at the tea was largely owing to the zealous efforts of the young ladies connected with Mrs. Quinney's class. After tea Principal Pickett delivered an eloquent lecture on "The Earl of Shaftesbury." Mr. Gerrard presided in the absence of Mr. J. P. Mitchell through illness. The proceeds amounted to over £50.

Southsea.

A complimentary tea was given at the Central Hall on Tuesday, October 19th, by the Sisterhood, when over fifty sisters attended, and the bazaar scheme was launched. Temperance sermons were preached on Sunday, October 24th, by Rev. L. Hancock and Mr. O. H. Orlinton, of Bournemouth. In the afternoon a united rally of all temperance organisations of the town was well attended. In connection with the visit of the District Synod of the I.O.G.T., on Wednesday, October 27th, a public memorial service to all members who have fallen in the war was conducted by Rev. L. Hancock. The school anniversary sermons were preached on Sunday, October 31st, by Rev. John Bailey. Councillor Dye, S.S.U. President, presided at a special musical service in the afternoon. Congregations and financial result very satisfactory. This church and school have now sent fifty-five men and youths into the Army and Navy.

South Yorkshire Mission.

Bentley Toll Bar held special services on October 23rd and 24th, when Rev.

H. F. Johnson, of Harrogate, preached powerful sermons. His lecture also was greatly appreciated. Bentley-road Church has been favoured in having Revs. A. Jubb and A. J. Marsh to conduct special mission services. Inspiring times have been experienced, and encouraging tokens are manifest. There is every promise of a great revival of religious enthusiasm. Improvement both financial and spiritual. Both officials and minister (Rev. S. Rowley) are hopeful as to the results of this winter's campaign.

Stockport.

The married ladies connected with the Lancashire Hill Church held their sectional anniversary on Sunday, October 31st, when able and appropriate sermons were preached by Mrs. J. Sayer, Cheadle Heath, and Mrs. W. A. Phillips, police-court missionary, Manchester. On Sunday afternoon a musical service was held under the presidency of Mrs. Harrison, Romiley. Solos were splendidly rendered by Miss Connie Robinson and Miss Gladys Harwood. Recitals were given by Mr. J. W. Scott, and a very helpful address was delivered by Mrs. B. Moore, the wife of a former minister of the circuit. On the following Monday evening there was a record gathering in the school, and there was great joy manifested when it was announced that by the week-end effort the ladies had realised the sum of £24 7s. 6d. for church and circuit purposes.

Swindon First.

The harvest services at Stratton St. Margaret were very successful, the services being well attended, with good collections. The four special school services conducted by Rev. W. Turner were also a time of great refreshing. The church anniversary meetings were greatly enjoyed, as were the services of Rev. H. Carden, Messrs. J. Lambdin, W. Thorne and F. Jefferies. The church anniversary at Upper Stratton, held on October 23rd to 27th, commenced with a tea and meeting on the Saturday, Councillor W. Webb presiding. Addresses were given by Rev. H. Carden and Mr. Marjoram. Rev. P. M. Richardson and Mr. Marjoram were the preachers on the Sunday. Mr. C. K. Warner's ladies' choir gave a concert on Wednesday before a large audience. Rev. J. H. Green, of Newbury, conducted the church anniversary services at Clifton-street. He also gave a splendid lecture on the Saturday and a vigorous address at the Monday's meeting. Councillor and Mrs. H. Marten celebrated their silver wedding by giving a public tea in aid of the Cricklade Trust Fund. At the after meeting Rev. P. M. Richardson expressed the good wishes of the church and congregation for continued prosperity.

Wakefield First.

Some time ago the married ladies of the Outwood Church decided to hold a "special effort" for the trust funds. On the Saturday we had a tea, to which upwards of one hundred people sat down. In the evening the married ladies gave an entertainment, presided over by Mrs. Broomhead. The chairwoman's remarks were most practical and interesting. The meetings were continued on the Sunday, when the pulpit was occupied by Miss Carr, of Wakefield. In the afternoon the "married ladies" rendered a service of song, entitled "Sabbath Bells." Mrs. Thorpe, of

Outwood, presided. The reader was Mrs. Auty, of Stanley; organist, Mrs. Brooks. In the evening the spirit of God was specially manifest, and one woman, a Roman Catholic, sought and found God. The financial results are most encouraging, realising a net total of £16 0s. 6d.

Women's Missionary Federation.

Anfield Plain.

A very successful missionary gathering has been held at Anfield Plain. The afternoon session, presided over by Mrs. Taylor, of Grange Villa, was enhanced by an address from Rev. J. Birkbeck, and solos were ably rendered by Miss E. Aynsley. A richly spread feast was tangible proof of the faith of the Anfield Plain members. As a result the federation fund will be enriched by the sum of £7 5s. 2d.

Derby.

A capital meeting was held at Mansfield-street on November 4th. Mrs. W. Jeffries presided, and we were fortunate in having Rev. E. McLellan for our speaker. Mrs. Jesse Brown read the missionary letters from Nurse Barlow and Rev. J. W. Price. Miss E. Mosedale was the soloist. A capital tea was prepared by the Mansfield-street ladies.

Rhosymedre.

The monthly meeting, held at Rhosymedre on November 10th, was largely attended. Mrs. Buckley presided and read the foreign letters from Rev. J. W. Price and Nurse E. Barlow. Rev. A. J. Chessum, of Warrington, with Mrs. Chessum, addressed the meeting. Mrs. R. Davies contributed the solo. Mrs. Evans being the accompanist. Tea was generously provided by the Rhosymedre ladies, and a substantial offering was taken for mission funds.

Rotherham First.

The November meeting was held at Wickersley on Thursday, 4th inst. Mrs. J. E. Ward presided, the speaker being Mrs. Meese, of Bramley (Wesleyan), who gave a delightfully helpful address. Mrs. Faulkner (secretary) gave an interesting report of the annual council meetings, and also read the missionary letter. Tea was kindly provided by the Wickersley ladies.

Sunderland and Seaham.

The November meeting was held at Silksworth, Mrs. E. H. Brown presiding. There was a good number present to hear the report of the Liverpool and Birkenhead Conference. The missionary letter was read by the secretary and Miss Stones sang two solos. Tea was provided and served by the Silksworth ladies and a collection taken for mission funds.

Swindon.

The monthly meeting was held at Rodbourne-road Church on November 8th. Mrs. Belcher presided. The Scripture was read by Mr. Edmunds, and the missionary letter by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. A. E. Harding gave a report of her visit to the annual meetings of the Federation. Rev. R. Cowie, of Witney, gave an inspiring address on missionary work.

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The Christian Ministry and the War.

BY REV. W. YOUNGER.

The Derby Circular to all men of military age has raised in an acute form the status and duty of the minister. The letters of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Derby, and Dr. Meyer compel the Churches to face the issue. A number of junior married ministers have asked me what they ought to do. I have been impressed with the profound significance which they attach to their vocation. They feel that if the military situation requires their enlistment, then there is no reason why a number of demands of a serious nature may not arise at any time which would justify their severance from their calling. And many of them are troubled because they and their wives have been told by women in the churches that, as their husbands have joined the forces, ministers ought to do likewise. This oral attitude is felt acutely by some probationers and the married men without children. The difficulty ought not to be ignored by the authorities of the denominations, and the General Committee of our Church must speedily give some definite guidance to our own men.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has defined the position of the clergy. It is the duty of the incumbent of each parish to remain in the ministry and attend to the spiritual needs of his parishioners. But it is important to remember the genesis of this judgment. The question of the attitude of the clergy to their actual participation is not raised. It is rather that the absence of the clergyman would mean the vital temporary suspension of the Church as a spiritual force. The sacraments could not be administered and the Gospel could not be preached except through episcopally ordained men. The clergy are the Church. The reason, therefore, for the Archbishop's decision is that the presence of the priest is essential to the very existence of the Church of England. And probably this conviction may have led Lord Derby to agree with the position of the Archbishop. The simultaneous appearance of the pronouncements was suggestive of a previous consultation. The probability, therefore, is that no minister in any subsequent policy of recruiting would be legally compelled to enlist. But Lord Derby draws a sharp distinction between the actual minister and the students and undergraduates who are preparing for the ministry. He regards these as part of the constituency to whom the appeal for recruits is sent, and the inference is that if any form of compulsion were introduced, which heaven forbid, these ministerial candidates would be included in the conscript army.

But a legal shelter is not enough for the Nonconformist minister. Dr. Meyer holds that it is as incumbent on "Free Church ministers as on laymen to enter some branch of the public service—R.A.M.C. or otherwise." And while he maintains that "Obviously some ministers of religion must be starved, as munition workers are, for necessary functions," he also declares that "The salvation of our country and Christian civilisation is as religious a duty as 'the cure of souls.'" He would, therefore, allow all ministers to enlist who wished to join the forces. He is not a sacerdotalist, and believes that during the absence of the ministers the churches would develop their own gifts and life. An opposite view is held by Dr. Garvie. He probably adheres to the Forsythian conception of the ministry. He is

pained to "see ministers of the Gospel hurry from the pulpit to the trenches. They ought to feel that if the gospel of reconciliation between God and man had been entrusted to them, there was no other claim that could be so urgent," and pleads for the avoidance of a compulsory uniformity which would lead men to abandon their sacred calling on any ground whatever.

There are two considerations to be borne in mind. The first is the need of some collective expression of the Free Church judgment on the subject, and some authoritative deliverance from our own General Committee. Men desire guidance, and the need is urgent. The letter from one of our ministers in the *Leader* of last week clearly reveals that men are wondering what their duty is. The Committee of Privileges of the Wesleyan Methodist Church acknowledge the right of the State to invite ministers to offer themselves for military service at this critical hour, and also appreciate the convictions of those men who feel it incumbent upon them to respond to the call. But the Committee very wisely think that an important function of the Church is to maintain the spiritual efficiency of her message to the nation, and this is indispensable to the well-being of the State during this crisis. This deliverance recognises the citizen view of the State in the conscience and calling of the minister, throws the individual back upon his own sense of responsibility, and emphasises the permanent value of the Church in the life of the nation in every crisis. The second consideration is the need of avoiding any distinction between the minister and the layman. The suspicion that a sacerdotal view of the ministry has been growing in the Free Churches in recent years is widespread, and the utmost care must be taken at this juncture to avoid an attitude which might seriously stimulate that suspicion. In a worthy cause the minister must be prepared to suffer like other men. He counts not his life dear unto him. His sacrificial interpretations must not be limited to the pulpit.

But there is a further aspect of the present duty of the ministry which must be emphasised. The mission of the preacher is one of healing. There is the tragedy of the hamlet and city home. Mothers and wives and sweethearts need the message and man of hope and comfort, and the demand for a domestic ministry is unprecedented. If it is thoroughly done the subsequent results will be fruitful and permanent. Hundreds of thousands of homes now are scenes of tension and test and tears. The man of God is required, whose training and experience fit him for this silent duty. Besides, the ministry must be represented in far greater numbers on the battlefields and in the camps. More men must be sent. It will create in the preachers a greater capacity to deal with men in future years, and destroy that asceticism and repulsive reliance upon a mere office in which the best sympathies of the soul are unexpressed. We shall get men and prophets instead of machines and parrots. We shall get a new zeal for conversions and a new power of appeal. Further, a serious mission in this great war is the work of looking after wounded men on the battlefield and after they return to the hospitals. This must be thoroughly done. In these three departments of Christian service there is ample scope for a very large number of ministers. And our

Church must not fail to take its proper place. We could do with a General Staff whose business would be to mobilise men and draft them in adequate numbers to the urgent posts of need. Certainly the students of Hartley College ought to be set aside for definite work of some kind. The training will be invaluable. Every man will be a greater preacher when he begins his work.

Kettering: The Advancing Crusade.

The Abbeydale (Sheffield) friends are specially distinguished for their interest in missions, and their honoured circuit steward, Mr. J. Sivil, is at the head of our Laymen's League, but their love of foreign missions does not preclude sympathy with home missions. Through recitals by Miss Elsie Bicheno they have cheered us in the great crusade. Mr. Joseph Stanley was the genial chairman. The feature of the month in the home work at Kettering has been the visit of Councillor and Mrs. H. Speed. Mr. Speed preached on the Sunday with remarkable power, the local paper describing him as one of the few preachers who could make theology live and glow and become eloquent. The Sunday wound up in grand old Methodist style. On the Monday a little market of specialities was arranged by the workers, and Mrs. Speed opened with a fine speech alight with Christian discernment. It was the first visit of Mr. and Mrs. Speed to Kettering, but our people besought an early second visit. On Wednesday the Kettering-road Church, Northampton, gave us an evening with recital by Miss Elsie Bicheno assisted in song by Miss Elsie Middleton and Rev. G. Davis. All of these, "our own articles," were highly appreciated and accorded encores. It was a wonderful event that a church which has already done so much for us should thus add to its generosity. Mr. William Arnold, to whose rare inspiration the crusade owes its start, and without whose splendid help this great release from hampering debt and new impetus to the evangel's onward march would have been utterly impossible, took the chair, and was supported by Rev. J. H. Saxton, who had cordially associated himself with the effort, and Rev. G. Bicheno, who expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of Kettering. Mrs. W. Arnold, jun., was the efficient accompanist.

Looking up the Carey records it will be seen that during his Moulton pastorate Carey himself was driven thus to seek succour abroad, though on a smaller scale, and that out of this added difficulty signal blessing came. The old meeting-house was not only proving too small, but the walls were bulging out dangerously, and the poor people themselves could only raise about £2 towards the needed £100. "And yet the Affair is no longer a Matter of mere Expedience, but of Necessity, unless we would give up the Gospel, or run the Risk of being buried in the Ruin of our Building." So ran the appeal. My folk are doing incomparably more than the Moulton people. With a fresh breath of the spirit there is quickened liberality and joy in giving. Our need is also immensely greater—£1,600 against £100, and if not the same kind of "Ruin" threatened before our Crusade, the "Risk" in other sorts was grave enough. Carey got as far afield as Birmingham, where Mr. Pearce not only aided his scheme but had "fresh fuel" put to his new-kindled missionary zeal, through the reading of Carey's MS. On the same visit Carey met a Mr. Potts, who offered £10 towards the printing of the priceless MS., long delayed for lack of means, and the printed pamphlet was from 1789 silently but surely "preparing the way" for the great sermon at Nottingham on May 30th, 1792, which flung wide the barring gates for the glorious century of modern missions. Readers know the text right well, but it was so surely the Magna Charta of missions, and is so urgent of application to-day, it is well to quote it yet again. "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth curtains of thine habitations: Spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes. For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." "Expect great things from God—attempt great things for God" was the theme. The profoundest impression was made, but even then the Association leaders were about to separate without practical result, but Carey withstood them at the door of the church. In distress and tears he seized Fuller by the hand, and pleaded that definite steps should be taken, and finally it was resolved that a plan be prepared and a meeting held to form a Missionary Society. That meeting was held on October 2nd, 1792, in a house in Lower-street, Kettering. Twelve persons were present, and the first missionary society of modern times was formed, the collection then taken amounting to £13 2s. 6d. Andrew Fuller, the Kettering minister, became the secretary, and Carey the first missionary.

Thus the urgent need at Moulton and the pathetic appeal involving Carey in arduous labours in travelling were caught up into God's purpose and made to play a tremendous part in the inception of the mighty enterprise of missions to the heathen. It may well be added that the Moulton appeal did not fail either, nor were they "buried in the Ruin of their Building." Nor by God's good grace and your good help, gentle reader, shall Kettering's crusade fail, but with all its "Risk" it shall win and vindicate our Home Missionary Committee in Kettering itself as surely as that greater and immortal venture of foreign missions has made Kettering's name a universal oridamme.

Our splendid church building, the wide and populous neighbourhood that is "our parish," the new life manifest these months, and the large ingathering especially of the young, together with the stream of help that has begun to flow to us, are all God's warranty. He will see us through, even in this time of difficulties intensified. In the spirit of hope and the service of love.

"Sunrise," Kettering.

G. BICHENO.

GENERAL COMMITTEE NOTES.

Rev. T. Saunders presided at the General Committee last Friday, when the ministerial pledge of Rev. Alf. G. Tanner, of Hereford Circuit, was approved. The sub-committee recommended that the proposals of the Nottingham and Liverpool Districts, that a General Sustentation Fund should be established apart from and distinct from the General Missionary Fund, should be referred to the General Missionary Committee, and this was agreed to. Permission was granted to Rev. Francis Brown, of Lowick, to engage in munition work providing that the work of the circuit did not suffer thereby. The appointment of Rev. S. G. Delafield, of Hull, as Army Chaplain was confirmed, and a third year's student from Hartley College is to be appointed in his place, to commence as from January 1st next, his probation to begin from the date of next Conference. Permission was given to enlist to Revs. H. Leggate, (Newton and Hyde), J. H. Briggs (Blackburn Third), T. D. Phillipson (Upton Park), A. G. Gray (Blackwood), and H. H. Woodward (Wisbeck). The question as to whether young ministers were exempt from enlisting under Lord Derby's scheme received prolonged consideration. In view of Lord Derby's letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the same question as it related to clergymen and curates, it was felt that all ministers of religion, whether single or married, were outside the scope and intention of the recruiting scheme of Lord Derby, and were therefore exempt. It was accordingly resolved to secure a further confirmation of this in its bearing on the ministry of our Church, and to issue a circular letter on the subject to all our ministers. It was strongly argued that ministers of Jesus Christ were never more needed by the people of this country than now, and that in the pursuance of their ministerial work they were alike serving their country in this terrible crisis as those who took up active military service. The committee were officially informed that twenty-seven Hartley College students had enlisted, and five were engaged in hut work. It was urged that the special commission appointed by the last Conference to adjust the claims of ministers and students who undertake Army service should be convened on an early date.

It was resolved to appoint Sunday, January 2nd next, to be observed as a Day of Intercession in all our churches for the sufferers by this terrible war, for a speedy and satisfactory termination of the war, and for the restoration of peace to the nations of the world. It was decided to remit the details to the sub-committee, and their report and recommendations will be awaited with keen interest. Meanwhile, it will be a great advantage if all churches in preparing their next quarter's programme of services and appointments will keep January 2nd free for the purpose as suggested. An inquiry was submitted as to whether a delegate representing more than one interest in a church court had more than one vote, to which it was resolved to reply in the negative. Applications for sale of property at Hilgay, Downham Circuit, and Chatteris, Manea Circuit, were approved. Several grants to needy local preachers were made from the Aged Local Preachers' Aid Fund. It is hoped that the circuits generally in their arrangements for the winter months are providing some opportunity for each society within their area to contribute towards this worthy fund, which is in need of increased support.

TWENTY-THREE RECRUITS.

Ingathering at Motherwell.

Fourteen years ago the present method of renewing the quarterly tickets at Motherwell was adopted, and has proved of great value. The classes met together for the purpose at the close of the service on Sunday evening. During the singing of the first hymn the members quietly group themselves together in their various classes for convenience in ticket distribution. After prayer a layman usually delivers a brief address, dealing perhaps with some institution of the church with which he is specially connected. On this occasion an admirable address was given by Mr. W. Deakin. Then the minister follows with a review of the quarter and a forecast of coming events. On this evening, the 7th inst., Mr. Ritson, who originated the present method, had the pleasure of referring to a most successful church anniversary by which £50 was paid off the debt, in addition to £130 previously paid since the beginning of the year. Then he spoke of the Young People's Day. Arrangements for this began a good while before the date fixed. At the circuit Sunday-school Committee Mr. Ritson introduced the subject of Young People's Day, and outlined a plan of campaign. After a useful conversation, it was decided to send on the suggestions to the four Sunday-schools. At Motherwell the matter was a subject of special prayer the week before—at the Monday night prayer-meeting, the Wednesday preaching service, and the Christian Endeavour on Friday. Special sermons were preached on the Sunday by the superintendent minister. In the afternoon addresses were given by the two school superintendents, after which the teachers spoke directly to their scholars on the subject of immediate decision. The result was a large number of decisions, a considerable accession to the Junior Endeavour, and the presence at the ticket renewal of a band of new members. Of the twenty-three received into the Church that evening only two were creditallied. At the minister's request the candidates for membership stood up. The long line of young men and young women was an impressive sight. No wonder the minister's voice faltered, especially when he referred to two fine young men who had decided on a Sunday afternoon in a little meeting in the bosom of their own home. When revival meetings become the vogue in families our churches will soon be revolutionised. The whole service made a profound impression, and many said, "We have never seen on this wise before." In age

the new members, apart from three of middle age, will be from sixteen to twenty-two. After the address the tickets were handed round by the leaders in envelopes. Each member took out the ticket, and placed a quarterly contribution in its stead. The ticket money amounted to £8 6s. This, with the day's collections and the Golden Fund (collected weekly by young ladies), would make the giving for the week between £14 and £15. We hope this ingathering is only the beginning of a good work. To God be the praise.

"Nurse Cavell" Service at Blackpool.

The crowded "Nurse Cavell" memorial service, held in Chapel-street Church at Blackpool last Sunday night, was of a representative character. The Mayor and Mayoress were present, as were Alderman Brown, J.P., nurses from the local hospital and St. Margaret's Home, and many leading townsmen. The whole service was deeply impressive. Rev. John Bradbury took as his text Rev. vi. 9-10: "I saw at the foot of the altar the souls of those whose lives had been sacrificed for the word of God." The preacher said he used the event to show how it revealed the evil spirit we were fighting, and to inspire to the culture of that spirit that must reign, as revealed in the character and sacrifice of Nurse Cavell. The congregation was much moved as he portrayed the influences that had fashioned so noble a character, and the events that led to Edith Cavell winning her immortality. "We lay this crime at the Kaiser's door," cried the preacher, "and we shall never sheath the sword until Germany repents for it in dust and ashes." In the after-meeting Bombardier Rastrick, who has experienced wonderful deliverances from peril and death during his fifteen months in France, told a simple and affecting story. He said he attributed his spared life to prayers offered in Chapel-street Church. At the close a hearty welcome was given to Primitive Methodist soldiers who recently have come to Blackpool.

"SUNDAY - SCHOOL" SOLDIERS' HUT FUND.

Subscribing Schools Still in Time.

Schools that have not sent in a subscription are urged to do so at once. There is still time to be included in the list, or roll of honour as it might be very properly called. The effort is doing the schools themselves good, and the young people are delighted at the opportunity. Charming letters full of sympathy and interest in the project are received by nearly every post, and it is evident that a wider and more generous school-life is being everywhere generated. The following additional subscriptions have been received, and the end is not yet.

Watton, Watton, 7s. 6d.; North Camp, Aldershot, 3s. 6d.; Graham-street, Derby Fourth, 5s.; Stanhope, Westgate, 9s. 6d.; Hemsworth 2s. 6d.; Kinsley 5s. 2d.; Hemsworth Circuit; Rudland, Helmsley, 2s. 6d.; High-street, Walthamstow, 12s. 6d.; Earlestown, Earlestown, £1; Mount Zion, Chesterfield Second, 13s. 6d.; "M. H.," 1s.; Haslington, Sandbach, 5s.; Massingham, King's Lynn, 3s. 6d.; Dudley 7s. 1d.; West Cramlington 2s. 6d.; Bates Cottages 7s. 6d.; Seaton Delaval Circuit; Filey, additional, 8d.; Romford, Grays and Romford, 7s.; Theale, Bradfield, 10s. 6d.; Frodsham, Kingsley, and Frodsham, 7s. 6d.; Kirkburn, Driffield, 2s.; Wallington-road, Dewsbury, £1; Harehills, Leeds Ninth, 13s.; Memorial Church 6s.; Duffield-road 5s. 1d.; Smeed-road 2s. 6d.; Hackney and North Bow Circuit; Dogsthorpe, Peterborough First, 2s. 6d.; Matlock Bank, Matlock, £2 3s. 1d.; Silverdale, 15s.; New Houghton, Mansfield, 10s.; Bourne, Long Eaton, 10s. 7d.; Bewicke Main, Gateshead Second, 12s. 6d.; Peltton Fell, Chester-le-Street, 10s.; Pittington, Durham, 2s.; Castle Carrick, Brampton, 6s.; Sleaford, 10s. 6d.; London Fields, Hackney, 3s. 6d.; Abertillery, 10s.; Newtown, Yeovil, 4s. 6d.; Handborough, Oxford, 5s.; Althorne, Maldon, 2s. 7d.; Church-street, Southport Second, 15s.; Beeston Far Roys, Leeds Second, 4s.; Swannington, Coalville, 13s. 6d.; Maidenhead, 15s. 6d.; Houghton-le-Spring 13s. 6d.; Newbottle 5s.; Shiny Row 10s.; New Peshaw 10s.; New Lambton 16s. 3d.; Houghton-le-Spring Circuit; Chadsmoor, Cannock, 14s.; Docking 12s.; Tring 3s. 6d.; Dorking Circuit; Golden Valley, Ripley, 5s.; Browney Colliery, Brandon, 2s.; King's Hill, Darlaston, 14s.; Edge Hill, Leicester First, 2s. 10d.; Oakley, Bedford First, 11s.; Emley, Clayton West, 7s. 6d.; Vicarage, Darlaston, 6s. 8d.; Kirkby Stephen, Brough, 5s.; Newborough, Peterborough First, 4s. 6d.; Darton, Barnsley Second, 6s. 6d.; Hutton Rudby, Stokesley, 4s.; Whippendell-road, Watford, 10s. 6d.; Grasmoor, Clay Cross, 9s.; Bickley, Ludlow, 5s.; Grimethorpe, Barnsley Second, 7s. 5d.; Rise Carr, Darlington, £1; Perkins Beach, Minsterley, 5s.; Orton, Brough, 1s. 6d.; Mount Tabor, Cardiff Second, 14s. 6d.; Burntwood, Lichfield, 10s.; Brierfield, 15s.; Little Bayton, Coventry Second, 3s.; Loughton-road, Loughton, 6s. 6d.; William-street, Slough, Windsor, 5s.; Gedney Grove End, Spalding and Holbeach, 12s.; Pye Hill, Ripley, 8s. 4d.; Haysech, Hasbury and Halesowen, 12s. 7d.; Spon-lane, West Bromwich Second, 7s.; Immanuel, Kennington and Battersea, 7s. 6d.; Victoria-road, Gateshead Second, 8s. 6d.; Eastwood, Kimberley, 8s. 3d.; Castleside, Shokley Bridge, 10s.; Eccles, Manchester Tenth, £1 2s.; Handsworth, Birmingham Second, 4s. 14d.; Fishponds, Bristol Fifth, 15s.; West Green, Tottenham, 6s.; Cockfield, St. Helen's, Auckland, 15s.; Southfield, Middlesbrough, £1 8s. 6d.; Hounslow, 6s.; Oldland, Bristol Fourth, 10s.; Young Ladies' Class, Sparkhill, Birmingham Fourth, 2s.; Dowlais, Nelson, S.W., 8s.; Wootton, Barton-on-Humber, 2s.; Langsett-road, Sheffield, 10s. 6d.; Banks, Southport Third (second contribution) 11s.; Hesketh Moss, Southport Third, £1 6s. 6d.

Subscriptions to be sent to Rev. W. Spedding, 18, Kensington-terrace, Hyde Park, Leeds.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Progress of the War.

It is still the case that during the week the keenest attention has been directed towards the Balkan fight, and feeling has alternately risen and fallen as the fortunes of the struggle have been closely watched. There has not been anything of arresting importance to report from either of the other great fronts, though it is beyond question that the successes of the Russians in driving further back their foes continue to be most marked and cheering, the reports of the capture of at least an additional two thousand prisoners being both significant and prophetic. In Champagne there have been very resolute and bitter attacks and counter-attacks, but neither side is able to report any striking success. The continued oscillation of Greece keeps the whole situation uncertain, and whether the proposed interview of Lord Kitchener with King Constantine will induce definite action is altogether uncertain. The probabilities are that the King of Greece is aiming, not so much to do what he ought to do, and what Treaty obligation imposes, as to make what appears to be the best bargain for himself.

Continued Gallantry of Serbia.

Though severely pressed, Serbia is still holding her enemies at bay, though she has necessarily evacuated a number of her treasured and historic positions. To have kept her army intact, notwithstanding her relinquishment of territory, has won for her the admiration of all who love pluck and daring and valour. Every day brings the Allied assistance nearer, and we may confidently hope, if the indomitable mountaineer fighters can last a little longer, complete victory will crown their tremendous struggle. The French and British forces are now already fighting for, and with, them, and Veles is reported to be in French hands. It is also stated that the Serbians are once more likely to capture Uskub, which, if it should prove true, will be good news indeed. The cruel heartlessness of the attack on these daring and devoted peoples becomes the more apparent as the days go, and knowing, as they do, that they are fighting for their national existence their intensity and tenacity become the more explicable. Whether the complete defeat of their foes become actual or not, that the brave Serbians deserve victory is undeniable.

Enemy Submarine Activity.

It is more than likely that the remarkable successes of British submarines in the Baltic have goaded the enemy to new effort in this mode of warfare, and in recent days he has made an unusual haul. Clearly, however, in spite of all his protestations to the United States he has not abandoned his reckless bloodthirstiness. The sinking of the Italian liner "Ancona," though less serious in its loss of life than the "Lusitania," has been accompanied by some features of horror and inhumanity which previous ruthlessness has not witnessed. Not only had the "Ancona" a vast number of shots poured into her before she was torpedoed, but when the hosts of helpless passengers were struggling, either to save themselves in boats or in the water, they were cruelly overwhelmed with shell fire, and done to death in the most barbarous fashion, among them many women and children. It is reported that of the lost over twenty were Americans, and so the early words of Germany have again had the lie given to them. Verbal protests seem utterly unavailing, and one wonders what President Wilson will do next.

Cabinet Ministers at Guildhall.

However much the war may have robbed Lord Mayor's Day of its gaudy splendours, it has not succeeded in stopping the flow of oratory round the Lord Mayor's table, though it has probably abbreviated it. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour especially gave important speeches, and the nation would have been the poorer without either of them. Mr. Asquith, in particular, emphasised the main points of his historic deliverance of a year ago, and said much that should strengthen and steady the heart of the land. Indeed, the dominating feature of both great speeches was the confident assurance as to the issue of the war. Mr. Balfour dwelt on the naval supremacy of the Allied forces, and the pledge of victory which this supremacy carries. The note which rang from the Guildhall will do not a little to discount the wailing and the whimpering of which the nation has had far too heavy a dose, and of which it is getting more than a little sick. Perhaps the muzzling of one of the organs of pessimism and slander will help to act as a tonic to the spirits of the nation, but, whether or no, those carrying the heaviest responsibility will go on in spite of the prophets of woe and disaster.

Curbing the Drink Traffic.

The Liquor Traffic Central Control Board is proving itself to be in no sense a merely ornamental body, but is taking, step by step, commendably drastic action in various parts of the land. A number of important areas, in addition to those previously scheduled, are now to come under State control for the supply of intoxicating liquor. The whole of the Midlands area is now scheduled, as well as the more important towns and cities in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Many of the areas on the North-East Coast are now also included, as well as many places in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, the whole county of Pembroke, as well as Plymouth and Portsmouth and several of the surrounding districts. Great areas on the Western border are also included. Whether in these prohibited areas there is much less actual consumption of alcoholic liquor is open to question. Whatever may be the pros and cons of the nationalisation of the drink traffic, it is pretty clear that when and whenever the State

recovers for itself the possibility and power of prohibition some rather startling things can be done even with this tyrannous trade.

The Lords as Critics.

The Lords Temporal and Spiritual, whom the British people still tolerate as legislators, have been having one or two field days of late, and some of the "irresponsibles" have been making themselves supremely ridiculous. When "wild men" like Lord Willoughby de Broke and others of that level vapour away, but few people take the trouble to notice them. Others like Lord Loreburn and Lord Milner are tolerated with as much equanimity as possible; but in view of the fact that the enemies of Britain chuckle over the wisdom of the sage counsellors, and read into their pronouncements a meaning altogether unworthy of honest men, lovers of our fatherland deplore the stupidity of these be-titled but disappointed advisers of the world. Men like Lord Morley and Lord Courtney are of a totally different order, but even the wisest men are not always opportune and timely in their criticisms, and they sometimes make the enemy to blaspheme. Attacks on trusted leaders deserve resentment anywhere, but especially at critical times like these.

The Enlistment of Ministers.

The question of the wisdom of ministers of the Gospel bearing arms has been considerably before public attention in recent days, and the frank admission of Lord Derby in his letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, which practically endorses the action of the Archbishops in prohibiting the clergy from enlistment, has helped to thrust the matter into the realm of discussion. It is not easy to dogmatise as to the dictates of conscience, although it is always well to remember the vagaries of misdirected and uninstructed conscience. Lord Derby's letter, as well as that to General Booth, seems to exempt ministers of religion from the obligation to enlist, seeing they are those who, to use his Lordship's words, "are doing so much for the spiritual life of the community at this time." The Moderators of the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland have followed much along the line of the Archbishops, while the Wesleyan Methodist Committee of Privileges has pointed out that "in the present crisis the efficiency of the Church is one of the greatest assets of the nation, and the maintenance of that efficiency may be the highest service that ministers can render to the State." This is well said.

Rev. R. J. Campbell's Renunciation.

The friends of the late pastor of the City Temple are anything but well advised to keep attention turned to their friend who has forsworn his past. The acceptance of re-ordination, with its inevitable implications, does him the least possible credit, and once more challenges attention to the validity of the orders of all Free Church ministers. That a prominent Nonconformist leader should change his communion is, of course, a matter of individual conscience, but that he should even appear to tolerate the vicious Anglican view that Free Church ministers are unauthorised rather excites contempt instead of admiration. As he has now gone, it would have been wiser for his friends and apologists to have been silent. He himself has been so erratic that few people will have been greatly surprised at the strange change of front.

The New Church at Cambridge.

On Tuesday, November 9th, a special church meeting was held at Castle-street, Cambridge, to consider a scheme suggested by the superintendent minister, Rev. J. Day Thompson, to raise during the next two years a sum of 10,000 shillings towards the funds of the new church. By request of Mr. Thompson the financial secretary, Mr. S. F. Armstrong, gave a detailed statement of the cost of the premises, which showed that the total sum expended had been £5,454, towards which there had been raised (including grants from the General Missionary Committee, the General Chapel Fund and Sir W. P. Hartley) £3,158, leaving the debt at £2,296. Of this amount interest is being paid on £1,500 by the Church Extension Fund, on the usual conditions of repayment. The total annual liability for principal and interest is £135, which, added to a calculated deficit per year on the ordinary working, brings the sum needed year by year to about £177. The 10,000 shillings fund is to meet this for the next two or three years. There was a good attendance, and the scheme was most heartily endorsed, some 2,400 shillings being promised on the spot and measures suggested for obtaining the rest in the time mentioned. But the church numbers only 100 members, and the congregation, though good and growing, has suffered much from the war. The great majority of the adherents are of the working class, with very limited financial ability. The help of old and new sympathisers is most urgently needed, and Mr. Thompson will be delighted to acknowledge any amounts, small or large, towards this necessary object. The whole building scheme, for various reasons, has cost several hundreds of pounds more than was originally contemplated, and as the purpose of the new church in this University centre is Connexional, and not simply local, a confident appeal is made to the whole Church to assist. The President's assistant (Rev. H. G. Marsh, M.A., B.D.) and his colleague (Rev. J. B. Hardy) are doing splendid work at Castle-street and in the circuit generally. Advantage was taken of the gathering to make a suitable small presentation to Mr. J. Nicholas, clerk of the works, in recognition of his invaluable services during the progress of the erection. The meeting closed on a high note of hopefulness.

LONDON CHURCH COUNCIL.

Mrs. E. Hermann at Holborn Hall.

The London Church Council was favoured last Friday evening, at its monthly meeting in Holborn Hall, with a visit from Mrs. E. Hermann, authoress of that brilliant book, "Eucken and Bergson." The subject of her address was "Aspects of the Gospel which Appeal to Women," and the fresh, vigorous, challenging treatment of it will long be remembered by those present. Mrs. Hermann began by referring to the extreme difficulty in treating the mentality of women at such a time as the present, when feminine life was in the melting-pot and when all that anybody could discern was a seething mass of potentialities. What, to the speaker's mind, was radical and significant among the characteristics emerging from the sudden and overwhelming uprush of woman-activity was not the striving for efficiency in this or that department of industrial life, but rather the new conscience which was awakening in women at the stimulus of the present crisis. The new situation was bringing home to woman the meaning and the fact of duty, which hitherto she had never appreciably realised. The fact of duty lay at the very foundation of the Gospel, but women had never sufficiently apprehended that Christianity had a definitely ethical basis. The present situation is calling for reality in religious life, for activity, and shaking woman from her passivity and comfortable sentimentality. It was just this that Jesus meant when He said, "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, etc.; He demanded an active response. This is an integral part of the Gospel. 'God cannot be bribed or wheedled'; He must be obeyed. His demands are peremptory. This 'unalterable moral value of God' was a foundation fact of the Gospel, a fact which was presenting itself through the present situation, and to which women were nobly responding.

Then the Gospels were distinctly marked by a spirit of adventure and unconventionality. This aspect had clearly not yet made its appeal to woman. She was far too conventional and sentimental in her religious life. This was why, at least at the conversion stage, she took the negative attitude, while man, by contrast, took the positive. Woman began by asking herself what she ought to give up and what she ought not to do. Man began by seeking out at once what he could do. To him Christianity was religion in action; he had caught the adventurous spirit of the Gospel. It is this unethical, sentimental, conventional Christianity of woman which makes it possible for the German Church, seven-eighths of which is women, to burst into a flaming enthusiasm for all the worst atrocities of war. Such is the inevitable fruit of a negative Christianity. It strikes at the conscience, and is of the very spirit of the anti-Christ. Growing interest was heightened as the speaker, with incisive and fearless thrust, probed the weaknesses and festering sores in the religious life of both sexes. A notion, she said, that was diametrically opposed to the spirit of the Gospel, and which worked out detrimentally, was that "influence" was the chief end of the Christian life. To influence somebody had almost become a fetish with woman, and in less degree with man. Jesus cared practically nothing about His influence; what concerned Him rather was that He was true to Himself and to His Heavenly Father. So our true business is not to influence somebody, but rather to be true. To seek to influence somebody savours too much of the Pharisaic spirit, and truly it has its reward. Women have been too responsive to the "influence" idea.

That aspect of the Gospel which appealed to devotion had always been appreciated by woman, but not by man. It has not been sufficiently recognised that the Christian lives not in a republic, but in a kingdom. The Christianity of man is of the republican order, that of woman of the kingdom spirit. Woman likes to pour forth her devotion on some object. The kingdom, with its personal head, calls clearly for devotion to that supreme personality, a devotion which cannot result in idolatry if it be an intelligent devotion. This devotion to a personality is characteristic of woman and is native to her; she pours out her love to Jesus. And likewise that same devotion of love is poured out upon her fellows. Man has failed here. With his republican Christianity he has lacked devotion, either to Jesus or his fellows. Indeed, he has been all too susceptible to that Romanistic leaven, of which the Protestant Church is not yet purged, which uses men as pawns in the Church game. Here lay the minister's besetting sin. He loved men and women not as such, but because of their fitness for his purpose. This young man or woman was specialised on because "they would be such an asset to the Church." This was "the minister's devil." But "woman loves because she does love, and there's an end of it"; and she forgives unto seventy times seven. Her spontaneous love is true to the spirit of the Gospel. It savours of the spirit of the acceptance of the prodigal at home. And this spontaneous love of woman is a valuable corrective to that discriminative and selective tendency of man, so evidenced in the minister, to treat men simply as pawns in the game, leaving the multitude untouched and uncared for. This is a bed-rock principle of the Gospel, and in it lies the chief significance of the woman's movement.

The discussion which followed, led by Mrs. Joseph Johnson, showed wide interest, and evidenced the greatest delight in the charming Bohemian spirit of the speaker and in the stimulating and fearless character of her remarks. Rev. J. Tolfree Parr occupied the chair. Revs. F. Pickett, J. Johnson, J. W. Richardson, Messrs. J. Skinner, T. Proud and others took part in the discussion.

Mr. Fred. Harvey, son of Mr. William Harvey, assistant circuit steward of Hinckley Circuit, has been promoted to second lieutenant in the newly formed 10th Battalion of the Leicester Regiment. Lieutenant Harvey enlisted as a private in the Leicester Yeomanry. He is at present in France.

THE HARVEST SPEAKS.

By James W. Cotton.

There are preachers other than those who wear black coats and white ties. Nature is full of objects which will preach to us if we will but listen. Job says: "But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee." The writer of the Book of Proverbs sends us to the ant for instruction, and Jesus sends us to the lilies of the field. Shakespeare goes the length of asserting that there are "sermons in stones." Some of us have often wished that we knew how to extract them, but in any case we have it upon high authority that they are there. The bountiful harvest, too, which has been lavished upon us in the midst of our anxiety and pain—how eloquent it has been! At the very time when the faith of the Church was faltering, and even the pulpit was hardly sure of itself, the harvest of 1915 has raised its voice on behalf of the Eternal Realities.

The harvest has borne witness to God. When the sceptic is asked whence came the corn and fruit and flowers, he replies with Topsy, "Spect they grewed." When he is asked how they came to grow, he replies that they grew in accordance with natural law. But who established natural law? Law does not establish itself. The sceptic is silent, but my inward consciousness, my reason and my Bible unitedly declare that what the scientist calls natural law is simply the orderly method in which an all-wise God accomplishes His purposes. If I were to ask the sceptic to believe that an engine or a watch could be produced without intelligence he would laugh me to scorn, yet he expects me to believe that apples and flowers and ears of corn were thus produced. And this is the view that has been honoured by the name of Rationalism. The marvel is that any man outside a lunatic asylum could have been induced to adopt it. Rationalism, indeed! I thought that Rationalism postulated that for every phenomenon there must be an adequate cause. I thought that Rationalism regarded purpose and end-seeking as an evidence of contrivance and intelligent design. I thought that Rationalism meant that a universe which required a mind to understand it must have required a mind to produce it. It transpires, however, that the noble term Rationalism has been reserved for the harebrained theory that the universe made itself. The astronomer, John Kepler, once playfully suggested this theory as worthy of consideration, but he was completely bowled over by his wife. The conversation took place over the dinner table, and in illustration of the view that the universe might have been produced without intelligent design, Kepler asked, "Might not a variety of vegetables happen to drift together and form a salad?" "Yes," replied Mrs. Kepler, "but not such a salad as I make." Precisely! A universe produced haphazard would not be an orderly universe like this. Fruits and vegetables and cereals produced haphazard would not be such fruits and vegetables and cereals as we have recently seen displayed in our churches. It is because I claim to be a Rationalist in the proper sense that I am compelled to reject this view and range myself with the Psalmist who declares: "He watereth the hills from His chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that He may bring forth food out of the earth."

The harvest has testified that God is faithful. What the scientist calls natural law is really a revelation through the universe of the Creator's faithfulness and reliability. The constancy of law bespeaks the constancy of Him who established the law. Think, for example, of the arrangement by means of which we get our seasons. The earth, as everybody knows, not only travels around the sun once a year; it also spins round like a top once in twenty-four hours. Now, if the imaginary axis upon which the earth spins were upright we should not have any seasons, for then the sun would, upon every day of the year, be twelve hours above the horizon and twelve hours below it. The earth's axis, however, is not upright. It is tilted twenty-three and a half degrees from the perpendicular. The result is that we get an increasing or diminishing amount of sunlight from day to day throughout the year, and it is this which constitutes our seasons. People have sometimes imagined that our summer is due to the earth being nearer to the sun at that time. This is not so. Our earth is, in truth, at its nearest point to the sun on the 1st of January. Our seasons do not depend upon our slightly varying distance from the sun. They depend upon the fact that while the earth travels around the sun its axis remains tilted at the same angle of twenty-three and a half degrees. The ancient promise, therefore, "While the earth remaineth seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter shall not cease," amounts to an assurance that the tilting of the earth's axis shall not undergo any serious alteration. This promise has been kept, and those who have made a profound study of the mechanism of the solar system declare that it will be kept, inasmuch as the tilting of the earth's axis can never vary more than a trifling degree. This is the testimony of science to God's faithfulness. Some would prefer to see miracles. If only God would cause the sun to shine at midnight, or would send us two feet of snow in August they could believe. A God who works by law does not appeal to them. How dull such people are! It is the constancy of God that makes Him worthy of our confidence. We have known men who were so erratic that there was no knowing what foolish thing they would do next. Imagine having to live under a God of that kind! I prefer the God who works by law—"the faithful God that keepeth covenant and mercy."

The harvest has declared that God is benevolent. The late Dr. Barnardo had nearly ten thousand children dependent upon him. He had admitted them into his homes and constituted himself responsible for the supply of their needs. God has a bigger family to provide for. There are fifteen hundred million human beings dependent upon Him every day besides an innumerable number of beasts and birds and insects. "The eyes of all wait upon Him and He giveth them their meat in due season." How does He do it? By multiplication. The harvest gives us a wonderful lesson in Divine multiplication. The ratio in which many vegetable forms multiply is astonishing. A pennyworth of lettuce seed will, in the course of a few seasons, supply a whole street, a single potato will in the course of a few years produce bushels, the farmer's seed-corn will yield him thirty-fold, sixty-fold, a hundred-fold. Yet, notwithstanding this enormous multiplication of vegetable forms there are those who tell us that they can see in nature no indication of the benevolence of God. Well, there are none so blind as they who will not see. The bounteous harvest with which God has crowned the year in which so many of His good gifts have been wantonly and wickedly destroyed seems even to contain a hint that God is merciful.

General Chapel Fund Committee.

The half-yearly meeting of the above committee was held at Grantham on Thursday last. Rev. W. R. Bird was voted to the chair, Rev. A. Baldwin was appointed secretary, and Revs. F. J. Hadfield and W. H. Lawson letter writers. Apologies for absence were received from a number of brethren, among them Mr. W. E. Morse, J.P., who at the last moment found himself unable to attend, on account of duties incidental to his re-election to the Mayoralty of Swindon. He was heartily congratulated on his reappointment to that distinguished position. An extension of time was granted to the trustees of Hill-street Church, Brierley Hill, to enable them to claim a conditional promise of help, made three years ago. Guildford Church is burdened with a crushing debt, and outstanding liabilities amount to £180. On condition that these are cleared the committee promised a grant of £50. Gravesend, Goldenhill (Tunstall), Shavington (Crewe 2nd), Castleford, Bethel (Sheffield) and Berkhamstead were each promised 10 per cent. on what they can raise for debt reduction during the next three years. A new chapel has been built at Ashwell in Oakham Circuit. The friends have done well, but they are anxious to further reduce the debt by £35, and towards this £5 was promised. The minister recently appointed to Chichester has initiated a scheme for greatly improving our property in that city, and subject to the approval and support of the General Missionary Committee, this committee will co-operate and give 10 per cent. on all that can be raised up to £200. We have suffered greatly at Ilkley through having no school accommodation. Led by Rev. F. Smith, who now resides there, the friends are making a vigorous effort to remedy this, and the committee promised £25 towards £400 which it is proposed to raise. Two cases of acute difficulty—Holloway and Baldock—were presented, and a sub-committee was appointed to co-operate with the London First District Building Committee in dealing with them.

Applications for loans were received from Hove, Heath-road, Coventry, High Littleton (Midsomer Norton), Newton (Sudbury), and Jubilee (Hull First), and in each case it was decided to render assistance, either by placing a loan or paying interest for a term of years. The sub-committee above referred to was also empowered to confer with the Salisbury and Southampton District Building Committee in respect to a serious difficulty at Eastney, in the Portsmouth Second Circuit, and subject to a specified condition to temporarily advance £150. Two applications to the Legal Defence Fund Committee were sympathetically considered, and the desired assistance given. The proceedings were characterised by great heartiness and unanimity. The warmest thanks of the meeting were given to Rev. T. McKenzie and the Grantham friends for their very generous hospitality. It should be mentioned that a public meeting was held on Wednesday evening, when eloquent and forceful addresses were given by Revs. M. T. Pickering, John Hall, and D. T. Mann.

The Late Rev. John T. Morris.

The news of the early death of Rev. John T. Morris, of Exmouth, on Saturday, has produced wide and profound sorrow. Born in Radnorshire thirty-four years ago, he consecrated his life to the service of God when he was barely twelve years of age, and in the little village in Herefordshire where he went to reside he gave evidence of the abilities that have characterised his ministry. On the Sunday before his seventeenth birthday he occupied the pulpit of one of the Leominster churches and preached his first sermon. Such natural ability for the ministry did he display that it was urged upon him to commence the studies preparatory to entering college. Three and a half years from the date when he made his first attempt as a preacher he became a student at Hartley College, Manchester. His first circuit was Faringdon, and after two years he removed to Newhaven, Sussex, where he completed his probation. From Kingstone, in his home county, he went to St. Austell, and his labours there crowned his ministerial life. In the four years of his ministry at St. Austell he imbued the circuit with a new spirit, called into service hitherto dormant energies, and united the members in a common bond of consecrated zeal and enthusiasm under his leadership. Probably his greatest outward achievement was the building of a new church at Bugle, in the centre of the china clay industry. Here for many years the society had worshipped in a diminutive barn-like building, and though efforts had been put forth from time to time to enter upon a forward movement, the obstacles were always too great for the struggling society to surmount, and they were finally

abandoned. John T. Morris, at his own desire, was given "a free hand," and after a fierce uphill fight he brought the desires of the circuit to fruition, and was rewarded by the erection of the imposing church, handsomely equipped, standing there to-day as a monument to his strenuous labours. Best of all, he added 120 members to the circuit, an achievement never known before or since in this district. In the street, on the platform, as well as in the pulpit, he was not afraid to let his voice be heard on social questions, and he spoke with a rare knowledge of the condition of the workers, acquired by his early years spent among the tillers of the soil. First and foremost he was a minister of the Gospel, and his pulpit utterances gave evidences of clear and original thinking and rang with the note of intensity. The friends at St. Austell cherished fervent hopes that it would be possible for him to return and take up afresh the good work which he had relinquished. But it was not to be. To-day many stand as mourners, thinking sadly of the young widow and little daughter. The church at St. Austell unites its prayers with those of the Exmouth Circuit for consolation in this hour of their bereavement.

District School Convention.

Beautiful weather attended, and an excellent spirit prevailed in the Shrewsbury District Sunday-school Convention, held at Oswestry, November 6th to 8th. The public meeting on Saturday was under the control of Mr. S. Hayward, of Hadnall, who emphasised the value of Sunday-school work. Mr. Challenger, of Shrewsbury, delivered an elaborate address, and Rev. G. Hunt, of Chester, ably advocated "The Urgent Need of Winning the Scholars to Christ." Delegates occupied the circuit pulpits on the Sunday. A large company of scholars and adults gathered in the afternoon to hear Rev. G. Hunt's address on "Keep to the Right," and in the evening his excellent discourse on "Building up Yourselves" gripped the crowded audience, and was succeeded by a warm prayer meeting, during which two young soldiers, from one of the Cheshire regiments stationed at Park Hall Camp, were converted. Mrs. T. Ward Green very wisely and patiently presided over the Monday morning session. Letters of sympathy were directed to be sent to Rev. W. Spedding in his breakdown, and to Rev. I. Ashworth, District Sunday-school Secretary, and Mr. J. Davies, of Rhosymedre, in their unfortunate accidents. Mr. Challenger, in a richly suggestive address, introduced the subject of "The Management and Value of the Band of Hope." Miss F. M. Lewis, of Wem, followed with a lucid and comprehensive paper on "The Annual Scripture Examination and its Value to our Scholars and Teachers." The presidency in the afternoon fell to Rev. J. Holmes. Mr. J. Pinson, of Newport, read a practical and sensible paper on "How to Secure and Maintain Interest in the Endeavour Weekly Meeting," and in the discussion emphasis was laid on the necessity of keeping up the spiritual tone and the spiritual life. Rev. G. T. D. Pidsley supplied a carefully prepared and helpful introduction to a profitable discussion on "The Position of Children in Relation to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper," in which the propriety and advisability of admitting reverent, worshipping children to participation in the ordinance, and the need of instructing them as to the significance of it, were warmly approved. Messrs. W. Challinor, of Minsterley, G. Podmore, of Newport, W. T. Howell, of Oswestry, Rev. G. Hunt, and others made valuable contributions to the discussions. After an enjoyable tea, Mr. Cooper, of Oakengates, who presided at the meeting, called attention to "The Inspirational Value of the Convention." Rev. G. T. D. Pidsley spoke on "The Essentials to the Growth and Perfection of a Church," and Rev. G. Hunt took for his subject, "Don't Despise the Children." Thanks were heartily accorded to all. The Convention was also a distinct success financially.

Bluebirds at Church.

"Yes, borrow a phrase of M. Maeterlinck and you have it: The Bluebirds of Happiness!" So a friend of the writer described the 1st Harrow Company of Girl Guides as they filed into the Welldon-crescent Church on Sunday morning. It was radiant sunshine, and the bright faces of the guides, who wore the now familiar blue costumes, seemed part of the scene. A troop of bluebirds of happiness carrying glad song and hope wherever they go! The description could not be bettered. The Girl Guides marched in procession to the church, headed by their own band, the banners of the Company fluttering over them. Captains N. Nickels and E. Gulliver were in command. The church was half filled with these bluebird guests who enriched the singing and made the whole service bright with their presence. At the close of the service the band played "Onward Christian Soldiers." Rev. F. Pickett conducted the service. In giving welcome to the guests he spoke of them as in the succession of Florence Nightingale. Mr. Pickett gave a war sermon, taking as his theme the noble words from the Book of Job, to the effect that in the black clouds is a certain light and shining. The hymn of the Girl Guides was sung: "Fight the good fight." The Guides are to be complimented on the "turn-out"—that is the technical word—their smartness and discipline, and, we would add, their reverence.

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ARMY NOTES FROM FAR AND NEAR.

By Rev. Joseph E. Gilbert, C.F.

Rev. T. B. Heward, of Richmond, Surrey, has been appointed C.F. For many months past Mr. Heward has been in very close association with the troops in the famous Richmond Park and district, and no man has shown his interest in soldiers, and his deep sympathy with them, more than Mr. Heward. He is now to have a larger opportunity for the exercise of his sympathy. Everybody will wish him joy and success. Rev. P. J. Fisher, C.F., and Rev. T. Sands, C.F., are both under orders for the front. Both these brethren have served a good apprenticeship with the troops, and are now proceeding to the field of war. They will have—as all our men have had—the prayers of the whole church. Rev. S. G. Delafield, C.F., is to succeed Mr. Sands at St. Albans. The plans for the "Sunday-school" Hut at Richmond, Yorks, have been examined and passed by the Army Board. This Hut is to be the largest we have yet built. It seems more than probable that the great camp at Richmond is to be permanent, and our Army Board is building the Hut with a view to long service. The plans provide for a large hall, games room, dining hall, bedrooms, kitchen, etc. The building is in the hands of a most capable Primitive Methodist firm, and everyone feels that this Hut will prove a boon to our men in this vast military area.

Extracts from a letter to hand give an idea of the times our chaplains are having abroad. This writer says: "What a time I have had lately! Marching with men, sleeping on straw in cellars and dug-outs, and experiencing the most awful cannonades, the likes of which I never want to see or hear again, yet I suppose I must. I had a narrow escape the other day. I was talking with some men with two more chaplains when a shell blew up a timber wagon five yards away, lifting the wheel right over our heads. Bricks and pieces of shell fell about us, but only one man was wounded. The shock was very severe, but I escaped with nothing worse than that. The next day the Germans shelled our billets, and again I had a great shaking. A friend of mine was wounded a few yards from me, and several killed. I am now in a most interesting part of the country and live in a big farmhouse, which appears to be cleaned once in a generation. I have never seen such filth, but my man is showing how the British soldier can make the dirt fly. I have recently spent two days and nights travelling, sleeping on the floor of a railway van, the houses about here in most cases having been burnt to the ground by the Germans when the French drove them out. The Roman Catholic chaplains seem to be among my best friends. I am now living with a splendid fellow who has given up a professorship for the time being to become a chaplain. By the way, I had an open air harvest festival service for our lads, and it was a great success. We did not have the table of gifts and fruit and vegetables, but as we were right in the midst of God's beautiful world we looked through Nature to Nature's God, and in the fields near we saw the stacks of golden grain. We sang the old hymns, and didn't the men enjoy them! For a time we forgot the booming of the guns and even the war itself, while we sang, 'We plough the fields and scatter, etc., and 'Come, ye thankful people, come.' The lads were going into the trenches to face death on Tuesday, so I said 'We cannot have our harvest festival public meeting and fruit banquet to-morrow, lads, but we will have a service.' I was longing and praying for some parcels from home just then, and a strange answer to my prayer came, for on my arrival home I found some wonderful parcels from the children of one of our Sunday-schools, and oh! the joy I had in giving out the contents of these parcels. My heart rejoiced, and the lads had a great surprise. The next night I decided to have a communion service, and then to say a few words. Picture the scene. A wonderful old farm in the background, ruined by German shells. A large field with several stocks in the forefront and a long avenue of trees. The sun was setting, and there with the sun shining upon them were the brown-faced looking khaki-boys with rifles and equipment. They were surrounding a wooden box which was covered with a white altar cloth. The communion vessels were on the improvised table, and in front the Primitive Methodist minister. We sang, 'When I survey the wondrous Cross,' then the men, still kneeling, sang 'There is a fountain filled with blood.' Then each partook of the emblems, and the simple service closed. Then I brought out the parcels, and told of the Sunday-school boys and girls in the home country who had been thinking of, and praying for the soldiers. Here's a parcel marked 'From somebody's darling.' It was given to a man who had little ones at home calling for Daddy, and the tears came down on the man's cheeks as he thought of his own little ones at home. And now it is almost dark; the gifts have been distributed, but how shall we finish? Kneeling in the open field with the guns booming in the distance, the warriors, who are, after all, little children, knelt together and repeated:—

'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
Look upon a little child,
Pity my simplicity,
Suffer me to come to Thee,'

for the sake of the children at home, and in memory of happy childhood days. Some of these lads since that service have passed hence, and who knows how much that memorable service and little prayer helped them during the long midnight watches and when death came to them?

We have received the following gifts in Aldershot this week, and beg to heartily thank all the friends who have contributed:—£1, Mr. J. W. Jones, of Halesowen, for Soldiers' Free Sunday teas; 18s. 1d., sale of poems at Bromsgrove (6s. 7d.); P.M. Church, and Redditch (11s. 6d.)

P.M. Church at recitals given by Madame E. Jones Moss, of Northampton; 5s. for Testaments, Mrs. Jacklin, North Somercotes; 5s., Mrs. E. Bowyer, these two items for Rev. G. Kendall's parcel. Two mufflers, two pairs mittens, nine pairs socks, vaseline and candles, from Baildon P.M.'s for Rev. J. Firth's parcel; twenty pairs socks, Glazebrook P.M. Knitting Guild, per Mr. E. Bridge; song books, from Miss Eva Gattus, of Kidderminster; socks, mittens, etc., Miss M. K. Cubbon, of Douglas, I.O.M.; socks, Miss Rolfe, Woking.

All inquiries and gifts should be addressed to 7, Victoria-road, Aldershot.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

London First.

Rev. G. C. Normandale presided over a well-attended meeting of the London First committees. Rev. W. Roberts introduced the Missionary business, and arranged that an over-testable conference and public meeting shall be held when the committees next meet at Bedford in February. We had the pleasure of the presence of Rev. J. Mayles, General Financial Missionary Secretary, who gave a lucid address on missionary matters in general. Several questions as to new ventures and the responsibility of the General Missionary Committee were put to him. In reply, Mr. Mayles told us that the committee were exceedingly anxious to economise in all possible ways. He informed the committee that something like £10,000 was owing to the General Missionary Treasurer. Rev. W. Roberts moved a vote of thanks, and assured Mr. Mayles the District would do our best to increase the missionary revenue. Rev. Clark Hallam, District Building secretary, stated that 10 per cent. had been promised to Berkhamsted on all moneys raised for the liquidation of debt during the next three years. Application to sell Boleyn Mission, Upton Park Circuit, was granted. The net proceeds of sale are to be devoted to the Manor Park Estate, Durham-road, Holloway Circuit, occupied the attention of the committee, and a sub-committee was appointed, in conjunction with another committee appointed by the General Chapel Fund, to consider the question. Rev. Jones Price made a strong appeal for the greater circulation of the magazines during the ensuing year. In connection with the Orphanage Committee, Rev. W. Curry had with him a shield which had been promised by Mr. T. Moore, of Northampton. These shields ought to considerably increase the revenue of the District to the Orphan Homes.

London Second.

The Committees were held at Holborn Hall on Friday last, Rev. G. E. Butt presiding. The circular from the General Book Steward urging special attention to next year's magazines was considered, and the periodicals were commended to ministers and members. The transference of the Wooton Society from Silchester Circuit to Basingstoke was sanctioned, it being five miles nearer Basingstoke than Silchester. An animated discussion arose upon a resolution to call the attention of the Conference Commission appointed to consider the better arrangement of stations so as to secure more efficient and economical working, to certain areas in Kent, which it was thought ought speedily to come under review. The meeting was delighted to learn of a gift of 120 chairs from High Wycombe to the Harrogate Orphanage and of efforts to assist the funds. The application to provide the lunch in May next was deferred for future consideration after inquiry. There was a good attendance for November.

South Wales.

The committees met at Newport on Friday, November 12th, Rev. G. H. Southall in the chair. The question of ministerial salary was considered, on the report of a special sub-committee, and circuits are to be urged to give the most favourable consideration to the raising of the minimum of married preachers' salaries to £30 per quarter. A scheme for the payment of travelling expenses to the members attending District committees was approved, and referred to the circuit Quarterly Meetings for an expression of opinion. It was reported by the Blackwood Circuit that Rev. Arthur G. Gray had appealed for release from circuit work that he might join His Majesty's forces as a motor cyclist in the Royal Flying Corps. Arrangements have been made for the supply of his work, subject to the approval of the General Committee. A resolution of appreciation of the action of Mr. Gray was carried. Attention was called to the issue by the Book Room authorities of the book, "When the Lads Come Home," by Mr. H. Jeffe. Great objection was taken to many of the statements in this book, and a strong resolution of protest passed against the spirit and teaching of the book. It was strongly felt that such reflections as are contained therein on the attitude of the churches to "the lads" was unjust, and calculated to injure both. The Sunday-school secretary reported that the number who had entered for the Scripture examination was 438. A resolution of sympathy with Rev. Wm. Spedding in his illness was adopted. The Temperance Committee secretary was unfortunately unable to attend through illness, but on his behalf notice was given to discuss the question of nationalisation of the drink traffic at the next meeting. A strong appeal is being made to the Minister of Munitions to extend the application of the Munitions Act in restricting the drink traffic to the whole of the British Isles. Serious excesses are reported from neighbourhoods adjacent to the restricted areas, so far thwarting and defeating its purpose.

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OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

Walter S. Johnson.

News is to hand of the death of Walter S. Johnson, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Johnson, of Foxboro' Farm, North Elmham, and late of Upwell, Downham Market, who died on board H.M.S. "Nevasa," off Gallipoli, on October 24th. The official intimation conveying the sad intelligence was a great blow to his parents and friends, for as late as September he was home on leave. He was just twenty-five years of age, and was to have entered Westminster College this September. But God has willed otherwise. From his early years he had ambitions for the scholastic profession, and passed the College of Preceptors and Cambridge Examinations, and in 1910 matriculated in London University. When war was declared he was one of the first to respond, and joined the 1st Norfolk Yeomanry. With his regiment he was sent to the Dardanelles, but in less than three weeks after landing he died of dysentery. He was always a good lad, for very early in life he gave his heart to God. He took a deep interest in the church, and held the offices of organist and Endeavour Secretary. Our hearts go out in sympathy to his father, mother, sisters and brothers. May they be comforted in this hour of their sorrow. A memorial service was conducted at North Elmham on November 21st by his friend, Rev. J. Bowles.

BAZAARS AND SPECIAL EFFORTS.

The north-east coast has suffered to a great extent financially during the war. The seasons of 1914-1915 were failures, but the friends at Saltburn decided to do their best for the trust funds, and a series of "At Homes" were held on November 9th, 10th and 11th. The Central Hall was gaily decorated with flags and the stalls tastefully arranged to carry out the military and naval ideas. On Tuesday Dr. E. J. Burnett acted as chairman. Rev. G. J. Lane and Mrs. Lane were host and hostess. There was a large company present. The artists were R. Blakeborough, Mr. Gage, and Mrs. Hutchinson. On Wednesday Mr. A. Rapp was chairman, and Mr. and Mrs. Rawlings received the guests. Artists: Mr. G. Harrison, Mr. W. Jones, and Miss Colley. Mrs. R. Scott accompanist. On Thursday, Mr. G. Toyn, J.P., presided; host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Scott. It was the young people's evening, and was most popular. The programme was very interesting, and consisted of choruses, action songs, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Workman trained the children most creditably. The choir rendered a "Fantasia on Nautical Airs" with great effect on Wednesday night. Conductor, Mr. J. Saunders. Refreshments were served each night. The audiences were excellent.

A bazaar was held at Carholme-road, Lincoln Second Circuit, on November 3rd and 4th. On the first day the opening ceremony was performed by the Mayoress. The Mayor (Mr. M. A. Ashley) presided, supported by Mrs. Kent (wife of the City Sheriff), Rev. and Mrs. W. Fidge. On the second day the bazaar was reopened by Mrs. W. Scott, of Gainsborough. Mr. J. Atkinson presided, supported by Councillor W. Scott, Mr. Oldham and the circuit minister. The following amounts were raised:—Sewing Committee Stall, £13 5s. 2d.; Men's, £10 10s. 1d.; Mrs. Brown's, £4 7s. 10d.; Mrs. Lewis', £4 7s. 9d.; Misses Bosworth, Parker and Trigg, £4 8s. 7d.; Connie Bosworth's, £1 15s. 6d.; Refreshment, £5 6s. 11d.; tea room, £3 5s. 1d.; Hoop La, £3; collections and donations, £7 3s. 1d.; miscellaneous, £8 12s. 1d.; making a total of £66 2s. 1d., in aid of the reduction of the debt on the chapel. A splendid result for a small church of thirty-eight members.

Revival at Falmouth.

Amid the disturbances and depression of war time, and other distractions of a military and naval centre, strenuous soulwinning efforts are being exerted at Falmouth. A great revival mission has begun, and is already receiving God's blessing. Rev. Herbert P. Ellis is entering into the work, with his accustomed zeal. Last year he conducted twelve weeks' missions single-handed, and much fruit remains. This year he has secured the co-operation of Mr. William Sampson, the well-known evangelist, known also as the "Cornishman on fire." House-to-house visitation is being done, afternoon meetings being conducted by Mrs. H. P. Ellis, and open-air services held when possible, every effort is being made to secure the attendance of the soldiers. The Salvation Army has kindly come with their efficient band, and rendered valuable help in a march round the district of the church. Falmouth is very hard soil, but the Holy Spirit is equal to it, and the faith of the people is claiming His presence and power. Members of other churches are coming to the services. For three weeks a mission has been going on at Penryn, which has only been reopened just over a year, and there was not a single active member there at that time. There is now a society of fifteen. Mr. Ellis has had during the past three weeks the co-operation of Mr. Edward Stephens, and Miss Amy Leigh, who took the afternoon meetings for women and evenings for young people. The mission has gripped the entire town, and gracious results have been seen. The mission continues, and Mr. Sampson will co-operate at Penryn when finished at Falmouth.

At a benefit concert given by Madame Dockray's Ladies' Choir the sum of £7 was raised on behalf of the fund which has been initiated for Mr. F. Stratton, the trust secretary of Cricklade-road Church, Swindon, who has been ill for more than nine months. Sir W. P. Hartley has generously promised the sum of £5 towards the fund.

The Mystery of Bedstone Manor.

By EDWARD McLELLAN,

Author of "Raw Gold," "The Ruin," "Old Glory," "At the Sign of the Lamp,"
"The Test," "Herod of Blaisenham," etc., etc.

CHAPTER X.—Continued.

Darnley Makes a Discovery.

"I don't know why I am so concerned," Darnley resumed as the farmer remained silent. "But I am concerned. Deeply concerned. I have always regarded sympathy as an essential part of my equipment. I have cultivated it—sometimes I think abnormally. I got the idea in a curious way. When I was a student one of our most distinguished ministers called at the college and spoke to us. He said that more than once he had been glad to leave a church because the burden of his people's sorrows got too heavy to be borne. It struck me as being the most magnificent thing I had ever heard. It flamed about that passage in Isaiah, 'He was wounded for our transgressions, and by his stripes we are healed,' like a great light. I was always sensitive—hyper-sensitive. Since then—because I have always longed to help the people I have been called to minister to—I have developed an almost uncanny sense of discovering sorrow.

"It isn't clairvoyance. It tells me nothing of facts. It gives me no histories. I only know when I stand in the presence of a great emotion, however suppressed or concealed. But I know it as surely as a water-diviner knows that water lies under his feet when the hazel leaps in his fingers.

"Our discussion to-night stirred Miss Carpenter to the very depths of her being. You were moved, too. I was as conscious of the perturbation of your aura—its a vile term, but I haven't a better—as a wireless operator with the drums on his ears is of the passage of messages through space. None of the rest were stirred to reach me. They were only interested in the discussion as a discussion. Miss Sherwell has great depths in her, too. I know that. Later, when she played and sang, she revealed them. I don't think she knows how deep they are.

"I thought it out while they were playing and singing. I remembered what you had told me of the past. But there was nothing in the history to justify what I was sensing—again a vile term—but you understand. But there must be a reason, hence—inevitably—a mystery. But was it known to you? I decided not. The rest was pure deduction. You loved her, and the very strength of your love made you conscious of her suffering, and you shared it. That she loves you I did not doubt then, nor do I doubt it now. No woman could know you as she knows you, and know that you loved her, and not love you in return.

"I do not even know whether you ever declared your love. That is immaterial. She has never married because she would never marry any man if not you. She will never marry you if this something is not removed. What is it? I don't know. But I want to find out because I want to help you both. I want to help you so much that I have ventured to tread on dangerous ground. If you had been any other than you are I should have shut it out and left it alone. I could have done that. But because you are what you are, and because—well, because I love you already as a brother—that isn't maudlin—I have told you. I don't know whether I have made myself clear. It is a difficult business."

It was a cold night, bright and hard, with a touch of early frost in it, but John Garden's face was beaded with perspiration as Darnley finished. Still, they did not look into each other's faces. Their eyes were strained over the fields as if they sought in the quiet moon-lit spaces the answer to the riddle.

Bob Herrick, crouched behind the bush, strained his ears to catch every word of Garden's reply. His own mind, sharp with the instinct of the blackmailer, saw money in this. It would be a less dangerous game than poaching, and he speculated on a secure revenue. In his eagerness he thrust his head beyond the shelter of the bush, but Garden remained mute. All that the poacher saw was the farmer crossing the stile, followed by the minister, and he sank back on his knees muttering curses.

They had crossed the field and were back on the turnpike before Garden spoke.

"I do love Helen Carpenter," he said, his voice hoarse and thick. "I have loved her ever since she was a girl. There has never been any other woman, and there never can be. I told her that twenty years ago and more—before the squire came—and after. I believe she loved me then, but her lips never confessed it.

"I thought the secret was mine—and hers," he went on, finding it hard to breathe—and talk. "Since then—the night Betty was born—we've scarcely met. It happened then—that night—whatever it was."

"It was a dreadful night. I told you of that. I was out in it. There were gypsies about and I was suspicious. They were camped on the common not far from the 'Elms,' and I went round by the fields, fighting my way, to make sure things were all right there. I saw her cross from the park gate to her own door. She had a parcel under her cloak. I waited until she should have entered the house. I could see the door from where I stood.

"She must have gone down by the side of the house into the garden. How long it was before she returned I don't know. It seemed an age. Then she reappeared, and went in at the front door. Then I went home. The

next morning we heard the news of Mrs. Sherwell's death. The gypsies had gone with the dawn.

"Helen was ill for weeks. And after that, until the squire went away, she was inscrutable. What is it? She's the purest woman under heaven. There's no saint in heaven with a sweeter life. And yet there is something. You've divined that. If any other man had spoken to me as you have I should have declared him mad. But, bewildering as your method is, the results are true. Can it tear the veil away from that night? If it can, and you would befriend me and her, do it."

Once more the two men paused in their walk, and this time they clasped hands and looked into each other's eyes.

As Darnley had said, they were strong men, hard of muscle, finely poised of body, and with faces that were open books telling to those who read of souls as strong and poised, and of wills and convictions as tensile and tempered. And in that handclasp the farmer and the minister sealed a friendship so deep and strong that everything that came after was powerless to break.

"What I can do I will do," Darnley said, his voice charged with feeling. "Whether I can do anything or not I don't know. Everything will depend on whether I can win Miss Carpenter's confidence. And—we must not forget this—it might be better for us not to know. Have you thought of that?"

"Yes," Garden said swiftly. "That has always been my difficulty. But, whatever it is, she is not to blame. I would stake my life on that," he said passionately. "I have begun to despair lately, because of the others involved. She would die before she would harm the hair of a child's head."

Darnley thought he had never seen so pathetic a figure as that of this strong man who shook before him in the moonlight, and whose faith in the woman he loved with such a noble reserve was beyond price. He found it difficult to speak, and his voice was husky when he replied.

"In all these matters we must be guided by what we find. Of this you may be assured—my faith in Miss Carpenter is as deep as your own. We must possess our souls in patience. There is no hurry. Life will flow on as usual. I will come to Bedstone as often as I can and take the fullest advantage of the open door at the 'Elms.' Good-night!"

After they had separated Darnley proceeded homewards lost in thought.

On such a night he would ordinarily have revelled in the witchery of the hour. His love of his kind and his engrossing desire to help it had made him singularly free of the secrets of the earth and sky. The tiniest flower interested him, and the wind singing in the trees was an anthem of the divine. For him there were no solitudes. The spacious night was but the great and open chamber of the soul of God, illumined by the gems His hands had made, and palpitating with the speech of ageless time.

And everything within him responded to the inspiring and exhilarating call. Nature, to others red in tooth and claw, was to him the handiwork of God throbbing with His love. In the high mood such communion invoked, the human nature so hopeless and degenerate to the cynic was a power to be redeemed, and he was an agent of redemption. There had been times when after such a walk on such a night he had felt as a swimmer feels fresh from the sea, with the tang of the salt on his lips and the ozone of great ocean spaces in his lungs, and his soul had exulted and sung praises to God.

But on this night his thoughts were imprisoned. They revolved about a woman whose grey hair about a beautiful face was an aureole crowning an unspoken grief. And the ever-recurring question was, Could that grief be lightened? Ought it to be lightened? Was it not better to let the secret, whatever it was, die? Suppose by probing it should reveal that Betty—

Betty! That vivid and fascinating girl with the deep sleep of a soul in her eyes, poised on the very edge of a glorious womanhood! A spirit fragrant with the fields she loved, and tender because of the simple folk with whom she lived and in whose lives she was intertwined! Betty! Buoyant and lustrous as the very incarnation of youth, with untutored emotions battling in the prison of a limited experience! A woman born in tragedy, gloomed about with perilous relationships, and yet destined to play a part in the bigger world that wealth and influence gave! Supposing that she—?

He stopped in his walk, the heavy beating of his heart distressing him. He had reached the edge of the town in which he lived, and his home was almost within sight. He turned and, this time with rapid strides, retraced his steps. He must know what that sudden flash had meant. The tiny rooms of the manse he inhabited were no place for such a discovery. It must be made under the stars, where the cool night winds could sweep his face and stimulate his brain.

What was Betty to him!

He had often wondered whether the world held his mate. So long as his parents had lived the thought had been an impulse only, springing unbidden from the tides that were controlled. Their loving assurances that they desired nothing better than to see him settled he had laughingly turned aside. Time enough, he had declared, when Cupid had marked him down and maimed him with his mortal arrow.

When at last he had been left alone, his powers had been so claimed by his work that though his thoughts

inevitably drifted toward the problem of his mating, they had left him strangely serene. He had often wondered, with a sigh of disappointment—for he had a great love of domesticity—whether he was one of those destined to celibacy that his ministry might be the more devoted. He repudiated the idea that "he travels farthest who travels alone" of set and deliberate choice. But if love came to him it must come unsought. And it must be so unmistakable when it came that it must sweep him off his feet.

Had it come now!

Was his concern about the tragic face of Helen Carpenter merely the result of a new-born love for her niece? Was his sudden and inexplicable desire to probe the mystery of the one merely an instinct to save the other from a penalty? And if that were so, how would his judgment be affected? If John Garden loved the one and he loved the other, and it should be found that the interests of the two women clashed!

But, if it were love, that it should be Betty! What spirit of fate had played such a mountebank trick as to bring that to pass! He thought of her status, her point of view, her habit of life; he reviewed all he had ever heard and thought of the necessity for unity and similarity in these matters if the marriage state was to be built upon enduring foundations; he battled furiously with the knowledge that by comparison and contrast, if he should enter the field as a suitor, he would be openly ridiculed and outclassed by his rivals—and he prayed God that he was mistaken and that for the time he was mad.

But thought and prayer and battle availed him nothing. Rapidity of motion over the silent roads brought him no ease. The deep, unbroken quiet of the moon-flooded night gave him no peace. His blood raced through his veins and sang of love. His brain throbbled above and beyond his bidding and chanted of love. His nature mocked at his theories and laughed at his reasoning. It was an agony of assurance against an agony of the tumbling of worlds about his ears. It left him weak and faint, but it left him sure.

For good or for ill, for weal or for woe, his heart had been pierced. Before he went to bed that night he knew that he loved Betty Sherwell with all the strength of his soul.

(To be continued.)

What Our Readers Say.

The Drink Traffic and State Control.

Sir,—May I refer to two points relative to the suggested scheme for the State purchase of the liquor traffic in England? What would our Colonies think at the present juncture if a retrograde step was taken by the Mother Country? Increasingly we need their help. The future, with its vast issue, is bound up with the consolidation of the Empire. They have given of their best in the war. They are prepared to make greater sacrifice in men and munitions. The severest blow we could offer them would surely be to buy out and become partners in the immoral liquor traffic. To talk of State purchase being "the quickest, perhaps the only way to prohibition" is the wildest of statements, and to further venture to say that "Christian sentiment is against prohibition" is at once to libel and pillory our comrades and brethren in America and the Colonies who have struggled long and ardently in this holy warfare, and by whose votes and influence prohibition has been carried in wide areas. In the United States of America large measures of Local Veto were adopted prior to the enactment of prohibition; and at the present time sixty millions of the ninety-three millions of the people of that country are living under permissive prohibition, and of the total area of the U.S.A. 75 per cent. is free from the saloon or the public sale of intoxicating liquors. Despite carping critics and the activities of the brewers and their satellites, prohibition in the many States that have adopted it is at once a proved and lasting success. The American people, shrewd and businesslike, are now proceeding with their nation-wide campaign for a saloonless people in 1920. Our Colonies, step by step, are gaining greater hold upon the traffic by a wise system of local veto, which is a tried and unquestioned success. In New Zealand, where the movement for prohibition is actively led by Rev. James Cocker, Rev. J. Dawson, and other well-known Primitive Methodists, noted triumphs are being recorded, and at the recent polls no less than fifty-six per cent. of the electorate voted for prohibition, but, unfortunately, sixty per cent. is required before prohibition can be carried. Local veto is already won in most of the Australian States, in Newfoundland, and throughout Canada, where the grip on the traffic is becoming tighter and tighter every day. Do not, I again repeat, dishearten our countrymen across the seas at this serious crisis in the history of the Empire by becoming partners in the unholy trade. To assume the people of England are not ready for self-protection by means of local veto when they secure the power is ridiculous. Let them have the opportunity, and great surprises will be in store for those who belittle and misjudge the intelligence of our countrymen. "We are told," said Lord Randolph Churchill, "you cannot make people sober by Act of Parliament, but I tell you what you can do, you can give the people power to make themselves sober."

A further point. In a statement made by Mr. Potter, who evidently writes with little knowledge of Norwegian matters as relating to this problem, he says, "Disinterested management" in Norway reduced the consumption of alcohol from the highest rate per head of the population known in the civilised world to the very lowest." Note again that he asserts that "disinterested management" has done this. What, however, are the real facts? In the year 1833 the estimated Brannvin consumption, according to Rowntree and Sherwell, was 16 litres per head of 50 per cent. of alcohol, produced by 9,727 stills. In 1840 this number had fallen to 10 litres. By

the law of 1845 local veto was granted, and the reduction in consumption continued, so that in five years, 1866-1870, it had fallen to 4.8 litres, which was decidedly lower than our spirit consumption in the United Kingdom. Norway was therefore transformed from one of the most drunken countries in Europe to one of the soberest before the law setting up the company system was ever passed. The transformation was due to two things, the prohibition of the right of household distillation, but largely owing to the right of local veto. We shall find after close investigation the impracticability of the "State Purchase" scheme, and we shall come to the conclusion that the results of this traffic are just the same if spirits and harmless lager beer are sold in the "Newcastle Arms" by clerical gentlemen in State livery behind brightly polished bars and marble counters, as they would be if sold under the present system in a low down-town public-house by a licence holder who happens to be a retired pugilist and cock fighter.—Yours, etc., F. A. HOLMES.
Spring-gardens, Buxton.

SIR,—In your last issue Rev. J. S. Nightingale adopted a tone of confidence and authority which can only be justified by the fact which he states, that he has attended "District assemblies for more years than I almost remember." Well, twenty-six years in one ministry hardly constitute a remarkable record, or enable him to foreshadow with such certainty what our District Assembly will do on the question of State Control of the Drink Traffic. I dare not speak with such certainty, though I was a temperance advocate nine years before my friend saw the light of this world. Upwards of forty years ago I was an earnest advocate of the "alliance policy," yet in recent years I have given it up as utterly hopeless and impracticable. Perhaps I have also suffered from "midsummer madness" which my friend kindly suggests as the cause of the change of views. I am anxious that whatever action our District may adopt will fully express the opinion of our churches. Notice has been given by our District Temperance Secretary that the subject will be fully discussed at Wingate in January next. Why Wingate? That is twenty miles on one side of the District, and the meeting there will not represent one half of our churches. The Temperance Committee is composed of the Sunday-school Committee, which is only one half as numerous as our District Committee, and I and many more senior members have neither voice nor vote on the School Committee. I therefore hope Mr. Sykes will take action to have this question taken up at our District Committee, held at Newcastle or Sunderland, which is a much larger and more authoritative court. No vote taken at Wingate can fully voice the mind of our churches.—Yours, etc., W. GELLEY.
Gateshead.

Contributions for Army Work.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of the following further sums:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Simmons, 10s.; Fairfield Society, 5s.; Mr. A. Finkell, 2s.; Miss M. Hales, 2s. 6d.;

Mr. S. Hales, 5s.; Mrs. Best, 2s.; Quinton Church, £1. Retiring collections: Nottingham Second, £1 12s. 6d.; Derby Second, £4 4s.; Sibley, £2 11s. 6d.; Hull First, £2 5s. 7d.; Hull Seventh, £1 3s.; Driffield (additional), £6 18s. 6d.; Newcastle Third, £2 18s. 6d.; Seaton Delavel, £5 1s. 4d.; Houghton-le-Spring, £1 12s. 9d.; Jarrow (additional), £2 16s. 3d.; Wingate, £3 12s. 1d.; Wymondham (additional), 7s. 6d.; Sheringham and Holt, £2 10s.; Loddon, £4 0s. 6d.; Manchester Fifth, £3 12s. 6d.; Knowlwood (Bottoms), 10s. 6d.; Macclesfield, £2 16s. 3d.; Hurstborne Tarrant, £1 17s. 10d.; Bristol Fourth, £1 17s. 10d.; Calne, £1 19s. 8d.; Forest Gate, £1 15s. 1d.; Silchester, £1 4s.; Chalfont St. Giles, 10s.; Oldbury, £1; Paisley, £3 10s. 7d.; Greenock, £1 5s. 2d.; Louth (additional), 5s.; Alston (additional), 6d.; Haltwhistle, £3 16s. 3d.; Workington, £3 1s.; Keighley First, £2; Downham Market, £4 9s. 9d.; Manea, £4 11s. 3d.; Wisbech (West Walton), 10s.; Motcombe, £2 8s. 3d.; Ellesmere, £6 0s. 6d.; Maldon, £1 1s. 8d.; Brighton, £1 5s. 4d. With best thanks.—Yours, etc., JOHN MAYLES.

93, Mount View-road, Stroud Green, N.

Gaming Machines.

SIR,—Going along to school yesterday afternoon I passed the open door of a confectioner's and tobacconist's shop. Most of these tradesmen's doors are open in this district on Sunday. Looking into this shop I was pained to see three of our boys who were on their way to school. They were not there for the purpose of purchase, but were throwing away their money on a gaming machine. In this city we seem over-run with this pernicious gaming machine traffic, which is seriously affecting the young life of the present day, tempting our boys on the Sabbath-day who were on their way to school. We who labour in the service of the school feel the position very keenly, and we feel we ought to do all in our power to remove this temptation from our midst. If necessary, let us withdraw our patronage from these tradesmen, and support those who try to earn an honest living six days a week, for we never know where this spirit of gambling will lead to. The desire for sport and adventure we know is in the hearts of all our boys, but let us as school workers endeavour to guide it in the right direction.—Yours, etc., Beauvale-road, Nottingham. ARTHUR E. WAKEFIELD.

Our Missionary Income.

SIR,—The missionary income, so often left only to the care of the youthful collector, is now being taken up by the Laymen's League and the Women's Federation. I would now like to suggest another source of income. In hundreds of our churches the week evening preaching service is held fortnightly. Why not take up a collection at every week-night preaching service for the cause of missions? Some will say that it will keep the poor away. It will do nothing of the kind. Those who stay away will not be the poor, but other people. I am afraid that during the week thousands of our members spend the

penny that would so much help this cause in other ways. If we could teach our people that "we lose what on ourselves we spend," we should have rendered them a great service, and this good cause would be out of the "begging" system into a well-organised and reliable method of keeping the needs and claims of so important a branch of God's work ever before us. JOHN RITSON.

North Seaton, Northumberland.

Local Preachers' Conference.

A highly successful conference of Local Preachers has been held at Durham City, at which abundant evidence was forthcoming that a vigorous type of Primitive Methodism exists under the shadow of the historic cathedral. The chairman of the afternoon gathering was the genial superintendent of the circuit, Rev. H. Fletcher, one of the sub-tutors for the Correspondence Classes. Mr. Moses Bourne, of Church Gresley, was the speaker, his subject being "Human and Divine Elements in Preaching." The address, which revealed rare gifts and a passion for preaching, called forth an interesting discussion, in which Rev. J. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Binney, Mr. Todd, the District Secretary, and others took part. After tea Mr. Bourne again spoke on "Preaching" at the public meeting, and was followed by Rev. J. Fitzpatrick, who discoursed on "The Value of the Positive in Preaching." His clear and vigorous thought finding vent in terse, telling phrases, captivated the audience. Mr. J. Johnson, the circuit steward, presided in capital style over a meeting which was an inspiration to all present. Mr. Bourne filled up a crowded week-end by preaching on the Sunday at Kingsley-terrace Church, Newcastle.

Russian Jews' Relief Fund.

To-day attention is again called to the Relief Fund for the Russian Jews. Some aid has been forthcoming in response to our previous appeal, but much more is urgently required. Those who read of the distressed condition of the Polish Jews as set forth in our columns to-day cannot but feel a strain of pity for these unfortunate sufferers. And to the suffering which comes through the loss of all they possessed there now has to be added the rigours of the Russian winter. Their condition is appalling. It is urgently necessary that help from the strongest of the Allies should be forthcoming at once. Contributions may be sent either to Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd., 54, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or to the Editor of the *Leader*, 73, Farringdon-street, E.C.

The new Mayor of Southwark, Councillor F. W. Ward, who is a leading Baptist layman, but whose residence and church are in distant South-West suburb, has appointed Rev. J. Tolefree Parr as his chaplain. Mr. Parr's church is in Southwark, and the Mayor will pay an official visit on the occasion of the anniversary.

Russian Jews' Relief Fund.

Help the Suffering Jews.

AN area seven times the size of Belgium has been ravished five times by the Germans. Millions are homeless and starving. Old men and women have lost the roofs over their heads, and when children stretch out their thin arms, crying for bread, their mothers can only answer with tears.

A spectre of horror has cast its withering hand over vast lands between Niemen and the Carpathians. Workers have lost their work, for all the workshops and factories are shut. The plough is rusting for want of use, for the labourer has been robbed of tools and seed.

Epidemics have spread throughout the country, and the domestic hearth is extinguished.

Has the Jew the Right to Your Help?

Yes; every nation has this right in the name of humanity. But the Jews have the right also in the name of their historic past. They have not only given us our religion, but have also been the means, in God's hand, of preserving it through many dark days. Others would have thought only of themselves; the Jews' first thought was the conserving of the law of God. During the centuries since then, the Bible and no small number of Jewish messengers have been the means of true progress. Yet think of the ages of persecution they have had to contend with. Wherever hunger and great disasters struck the nations amongst whom they live, the Jews suffered most. Of all the tragedies on this earth, surely theirs is one that surpasses them all! No earthly voice seems to rise on their behalf—no King! no Prince! to represent them. Do you not hear the heavenly voice? **The King of Kings** is appealing, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Let the bleeding hearts of millions of Jewish mothers know other feelings than pain. Let the voice of Israel not only speak in a sigh, but may they amidst all this horror through which they are passing still be able to say:—Blessed be the name of the Lord, for His redeemed children, who in His name came forward and helped us in our affliction. Let, therefore, the Jewish mothers be able to give their children something more than tears. Also by helping them now in their dire need, you may be sure that in days to come the ever-grateful hearts of these people will always remember that when they and their children were hungry, you fed them, and when they were naked you clothed them.

We are convinced that our country's past greatness in the hands of God has in part been due to our generous and Christian treatment to this race, and we believe that by doing what we can for them now, greater blessings even than those of the past will come to us, for has not God said, "He that blesses thee, him will I bless"?

Twenty Shillings will keep 10 persons from starvation for a week.

Donations should be sent to Messrs. BARCLAY & Co., LTD., Bankers, 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

A copy of a pamphlet, "*The Tragedy of the Jews in the European War Zone*," by Leon Levison, may be had free by subscribers and others, post free 2½d., from the Secretary, Russian Jews' Relief Fund, 122, George Street, Edinburgh.