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THE CONFERENCE CHOIRMASTER.

Leeds is no mean city in the musical world. Its great festival attracts devotees not only from the length and breadth of the British Isles, but also from remote parts of the Empire. Music is part of Methodism everywhere, and, naturally, in Leeds the association is as close one. In a city rich with able choirmasters the selection of the one to conduct the Conference choir might be supposed to be a delicate business. The position that Mr. Arthur Hainsworth has attained is evidenced by the fact that he was unanimously elected, and that the appointment is very popular with his contemporaries.

The severely practical question of competency regulated the choice, and sentimental considerations were disregarded. Happily, however, sentimental elements do gather around Mr. Hainsworth. He is a lifelong Primitive Methodist. Taken over to Silver Roid Hill Chapel, Leeds Sixth circuit, he has never been dissociated from it. He entered the choir at the age of 15. He has now been choirmaster 22 years. In a district where voluntary choirmasters are scarce, he has not only resisted enticing offers from other churches, but has refused to accept a

any other position. He has been pressed by his own coteries. He has been asked to leave the choir at Silver Roid Hill ranks of people in order to ascertain why was that they did not come to the church. The men who did the canvass were told that the church did not cater for the men of the villages. The doors of the public-houses were always open and men were made welcome, but after from the Sunday services the church had one hour's religious service once a fortnight. Others, however, church officials that if they would promote an institute where men could come at any time and meet their friends and play games they would meet a real need of the district and would find abundant support.

Mr. Arthur Hainsworth.

music. Last year it presented for four or five nights Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* to crowded audiences. Preachers appointed for the morning service usually find a full attendance at the school choir. Mr. Hainsworth has conducted musical works in over fifty different churches in and about Leeds, and has often taken other choirs when a special work has been under hand.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hainsworth have long been associated with the Leeds Philharmonic Society and the Leeds Musical Festival choirs. They were in the party selected to sing on the Continent before the war, and during the war Mr. Hainsworth conducted one of the special choir details for work among the wounded soldiers. So many musicians are musicians and nothing else that it is a pleasure to add that Mr. Hainsworth has been a Sunday school teacher and a President of the Endeavour. He is a trustee, as also are his two brothers, a member of the District Committee, and has represented his circuit at the Synod. Mrs. Hainsworth is a gifted vocalist, and is at one with her husband in her work. He is a man in the prime of life, with great possibilities of service yet before him.

A notable article in "Great Thoughts" for June is the interview with the Bishop of Birmingham on "The Influence of the Cinema." As chairman of the Commission of Enquiry which was held by the National Council of Public Morals, the Bishop is *au fait* with the whole question, so that his views are worth noting. Literature, music, travel and geography all have their place in a capital number. To read this capital monthly must be a liberal education. We hope that our educational authorities are alive to the value of such a course of reading as is supplied month by month.

The Church and Social Life.

The Church of Christ has greater duties awaiting her than she has ever accomplished. There are still large tracts for which she is responsible that are lying waste or very imperfectly cultivated. In no respect is this more true than with reference to the leisure hours and the social life of the people. In the areas where the working hours are few and the holidays many the Church should feel its responsibility towards those who have ample leisure and little means to use it wisely or well. It is in the leisure time of people, especially young people, that moral deterioration proceeds most rapidly. The changing conditions of industrial life have called us to minister to a people whose working hours are considerably fewer than those of any former time. Little change of method is being made by the Church to meet this altered condition.

It may interest the ever-widening circle of readers to know how a small village church, set in a typically mining community in the Midlands, is addressing itself to the question. It has the slenderest of resources, and is the sole minister in spiritual things to two small villages. The few men responsible for the working of this little church were aware that their ordinary religious ministrations evoked no response in the manhood of the district. So they were moved to get into touch with a number of people in order to ascertain why was that they did not come to the church. The men who did the canvass were told that the church did not cater for the men of the villages. The doors of the public-houses were always open and men were made welcome, but after from the Sunday services the church had one hour's religious service once a fortnight. Others, however, church officials that if they would promote an institute where men could come at any time and meet their friends and play games they would meet a real need of the district and would find abundant support.

After consideration the church officials issued a circular to every man in the village to attend a meeting at the village hall, to discuss the question. About sixty responded, and in the main they were men who had no church associations whatever. The question was carefully gone into, and it was decided as an experiment to buy an Army hut and erect it upon land adjoining the church. When the hut arrived all preparations had been made for its erection. The idea of the erection was undertaken by the men themselves, some of whom were skilled tradesmen, and the work was carried on down to the preparing of the plans for local authorities.

For an outburst of considerable enthusiasm when the opening day arrived last November. There was tea, and the men were very keen. The whole of the provisions had been got together by the men, and they were very keen to see the result. There was also a never-to-be-forgotten concert which the men had arranged. They realised that by the opening, and that was spent in furnishing, so we found ourselves with a nice comfortable hut, beautifully decorated, containing a brilliant table, a kind of table games, bagatelle, and daily and weekly papers. The membership steadily rises, and today is one hundred and fourteen. Members pay a half-crown entrance fee and one shilling per quarter. By the end of the year another billiard table was added, costing £72, and was paid for by June. Then it has been decided to add a pool table. The demand for billiards. As much as £2 per week has been taken for billiards alone. The men are keen, and the liabilities are being worked off rapidly. At once the church and the centre of life and light for the two small villages.

Since the church encouraged and assisted this little adventure there is

no opposition or conflict between church and institute. The Institute Bible Class on a Sunday afternoon is quite a popular institution, and is well supported by the members, and is under competent leadership. The institute knows that it owes its existence to the sympathy and assistance of the church, and is prepared to assist the church. Only recently it took over the annual weekend school of the young men and made a good thing of it for the church. It has a fine singing band for those members of the church, which is much appreciated. Best of all, some men have reconsidered their relationship to the church and have asked to be received into its fellowship.

Local publicans complain that their custom has ebbed away. The public-house managers to us found that it had insufficient accommodation for drinking purposes last winter, so in the summer I added two large drinking rooms. But this winter they have not been required, and it is only on very rare occasions that the customers warranted putting a fire or light into the rooms. Men who have been regarded as confirmed habitués of the pub have been surprised and have surprised others with the ease by which they have transferred their leisure hours to the institute and ceased to pour down their throat that which steals away their brains. Once clear of the pub, these are the first to acknowledge how it has deluded their manhood for sordid gain.

The men do not hesitate to say what different men they might have been if the institute had been going years ago. One stated that his first Christmas was spent as a "working man's club" for the area, but such cannot be now, for the working men have their own club without any indebtedness to the brewer. From the standpoint of a piece of temperance work it would be next to impossible to rate the institute too highly. We have practically emptied the public-houses in the area. Nothing associated with it has so deeply impressed the writer as the solicitude of these men, who formerly belonged to the public-house, for the welfare of youths who are beginning to work. There must be no irksome regulation for them always, because "we don't want him to start a pub; we have seen enough of that." It would have taken a great many red-hot temperance sermons to have accomplished as much in the interests of the Kingdom of God as this piece of work.

The men feel that the institute is theirs, and that it is up to them to make the most and best of it. The minister is the president of the committee, and makes a point of watching carefully all the business of the men, so that the men occasionally, but most of all he values the fellowship and contact which the institute has provided for himself with so many men. The district has a pure and higher social life as a result, and the churchmen are hugely delighted with our venture. They know now where

the husband will be spending his evenings and do not fear his return. Not many houses in the two small villages are now untouched by our church in one way or another. The small church with such poor resources should be able to accomplish such a work by judiciously the spirit of the work. In fact, we rejoice that already in the district the example has been followed by the sympathy and assistance of the church. These facts may inspire others to address themselves to this great question and assist in the purifying of the social life and the leisure hours of the people.

T. J. M.

MARRIAGES.

The marriage of Mr. Harry Price and Miss Doris Parker evoked great interest at Shoeburyness. Both are well known and highly respected. Mr. Price is actively engaged in C.E. work. Miss Parker has been a church organist for four years. The bride, who was attended by Miss Price and Miss Turridge, was prettily attired in an ivory crepe de chine dress, and wore a small hat with veil and wreath of orange blossom, carrying a bouquet of lilies and carnations. The bridegroom wore a tuxedo and a boutonniere. The ceremony was officiated. After the luncheon at the home of the bride the happy pair left for their honeymoon at Bourmouth. The many valuable and useful presents marked the esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Harry Price are large company of relatives and friends. She was neatly attired in navy costume, and wore an exquisite pair of excellent testimonials were given of the devoted labours of both the bride and bridegroom for our church and district, and the good work of their worthy parents. The minister, on behalf of the trustees and chapel, presented the bride with a happy pair, a barometer. Luncheon was served at the Central Hall Café. The service was conducted by Rev. Sam Rowley.

A goodly company gathered in our East-street Church, South-East London Division, on Thursday, May 10th, to witness the marriage of Alfred Henry Noon to Caroline Ada Vesic. Both the bride and bridegroom have been members and workers in our East-street Church for many years, and still retain several important offices. The bride was given away by Mr. W. Twort, whilst Miss May Twort and Mr. James Price performed the duties of bridesmaid and second bridesmaid respectively. The ceremony was conducted by the pastor, Mr. A. W. Mayo. Mrs. A. Holmes presided at the piano. Several presents included one from St. George's Hall Price Band, of which Mr. Noon is a member.

A pretty wedding took place at the Central Hall, Bradford, on Thursday, the contracting parties being Mr. Wm. Edmondson and Miss Edith Field, daughter of the late Mr. Sam Field and Mrs. Field, Morecambe and Bradford. The bride was given away by her mother in the presence of a large company of relatives and friends. She was neatly attired in navy costume, and wore an exquisite pair of excellent testimonials were given of the devoted labours of both the bride and bridegroom for our church and district, and the good work of their worthy parents. The minister, on behalf of the trustees and chapel, presented the bride with a happy pair, a barometer. Luncheon was served at the Central Hall Café. The service was conducted by Rev. Sam Rowley.

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Reasonable Price. Delicacious Flavour. Once used always used.

the "Appeal to all Christian people" issued from the Lambeth Conference nearly two years ago, and in our opinion it marks a real advance toward the reunion of the Churches. This statement is characterised by admirable lucidity, and upon most of its contents there will, we think, be general agreement. Probably the point to which Free Churchmen will most demur is this: "In view of the fact that the Episcopate was from early times, and is

Churches and People.

The Conference Issues of the *Primitive Methodist Leader* will be published on June 15th, 22nd and 29th. These three Numbers will contain many attractive features, including enlarged photographs of the President and Vice-President (Rev. H. J. Taylor) and the Vice-President (Mr. T. L. Gerrard). In addition to sketches of the President and Vice-President, the Presidential Address and the Address of the Vice-President will be included. The proceedings of Conference will be reported. Descriptive articles on the great details will appear, together with "The Conference Day," a feature always popular with our readers. The *Leader* on June 22nd will be specially enlarged. A complete list of the Stations of the Ministers will be included. The forthcoming Conference will be of the greatest importance to the whole Church in consequence of the subjects which will be considered. Notwithstanding the unusual costs involved, the *Leader* will be published each week at the ordinary price. A complete set of the three Conference Numbers will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom, post free, for 6d. Remittances should be addressed: The Manager, *Primitive Methodist Leader*, 175, Faringdon Street, London, E.C. 4. The *Leader* can also be obtained of any newsagent, weekly 2d.

The splendidly equipped new holiday home, "Balmoral," Marlborough-road, Buxton, will be opened on Monday next, June 12th, at 3.30, the Mayor of Buxton presiding on the occasion. Marlborough-road is in the centre of one of the best residential parts of the popular Derbyshire holiday centre, is only a few minutes from the railway termini and the principal sources of attraction, the Pleasure Gardens and other resorts. "Balmoral" has been equipped throughout on the most up-to-date methods, and is an ideal place for rest, recreation, and all that a holiday home should be. The denomination has needed such a home for many years, but hitherto obstacles have been insurmountable. Now at considerable outlay the Home has been provided. The matron, Miss R. L. Purkis, has had great experience, was selected out of a large number because of her unrivalled knowledge, and possesses all the qualifications necessary to make "Balmoral" one of the most attractive holiday homes in the country. "Balmoral" will no doubt come to be used for many recreational purposes, it being so admirably adapted for the purpose. A large recreation room, its attractive grounds, which readily lend themselves for games of many kinds, and the charming situation, cannot fail to appeal to our people. From Monday next, "Balmoral" will be open to all guests, the terms being arranged on the lowest basis consistent with modern requirements and efficiency. Applications should be addressed to The Matron, "Balmoral," Marlborough-road, Buxton.

The latest news from Rev. and Mrs. C. Crabtree tells of their arrival at Alwal North, and the beginnings of their ministry. On their way they had a very trying journey. On the voyage an outbreak of measles affected a number of children, among them the children of Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree. Their younger child was in a critical state on the ship, and at East London, with her brother, was taken to the Isolation Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree having to stay in one of the hotels. Later the boy developed measles, and both children suffered severely through complications, the girl with convulsion, the boy with pneumonia, and both were in a dangerous condition. Happily they are now convalescing, but will need care for a long time. Rev. and Mrs. G.

Ayre gave them warm welcome and much help, and Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree speak in warmest terms of their kindness.

The Sunday-school Anniversary at Surry Chapel is one of the great events of the district. Mr. J. B. Brown will preach the sermons on Sunday next. The scholars will give a missionary demonstration in the afternoon. On Monday evening Dr. Dr. Peole, of Christ Church (Dr. Meyer's successor), will be the speaker. The chairman for the week-end will be Mr. S. H. Edwards, the Society Steward, and Mr. T. Paige, the leader of the Children's Mission. Mr. Paige will distribute the prizes. Old friends of Surry are heartily invited.

For some considerable time past the case of Tysley has given anxiety to the Connexion authorities. Much satisfaction has been expressed at the request of the General Committee, re-

"BALMORAL" HOLIDAY HOME, BUXTON.

BOOKS WANTED.

The Editor of the *Leader* is wishing to furnish the Holiday House at Buxton with a supply of books suitable for the hundreds of guests who are expected to visit "Balmoral" during the coming season. As the visitors will not be restricted to any class or age, great variety is needed in the list. All stories, of Adventure, Fiction, Poetry, Travel, Adventure, Nature Reading, Religious Reading, Sunday School Work, Child Life and General Literature will be well worn.

The Editor has already received promises from many of our readers to contribute books. It is hoped that the list will be completed by the time the Holiday House is opened. The Editor is also anxious to receive donations of books from all our readers. The Editor is also anxious to receive donations of books from all our readers.

If friends who desire to help would prefer to contribute money to the purchase of books such a plan would be equally effective. All money for this purpose should be sent direct to the Editor, "Balmoral," Marlborough-road, Buxton, E.C. 4, and should be marked "Books for Balmoral."

Parcels of books should be sent, carriage paid, addressed to "Balmoral," Marlborough-road, Buxton.

THE MATRON (Miss R. L. Purkis), "Balmoral," Marlborough Road, Buxton. The name and address of the reader should be included.

As "Balmoral" will be open for the reception of guests after the 12th inst., books may be forwarded at once.

David Cooke has consented to take charge of this church in 1923. A word of appreciation is due to the circuits which, in the interests of the wider Connexion, have loyally accepted the call to surrender ministers pledged to them. Kedleston-street, Derby, where Mr. Cooke should have been in 1923, though naturally disappointed in losing the services of so capable a minister, has been able to relieve him of the vacancy thus created. Cannon Circuit has been asked by Derby Session and the General Committee to allow Rev. H. S. Milward to take charge of the latter station in 1923, and with commendable Connexion loyalty the station officials have agreed to the request.

An esteemed correspondent refers to "Vigilant's" note of last week on the cost of living, and the supplies figures, which suggested that the loss sustained by ministers is greater than the table supplied by A Distinguished Layman. It is not till September, 1916, that the minimum was raised to £120. The deficit, based on the minimum, was during the six years September, 1915-1920, as follows: £12, £37, £10, £48, £72, £64, £33, making a total of £266 10s. Since September, 1920, there has been a surplus of £24 10s. It thus appears that the deficit at present stands at £222. The writer of the letter says: "Ministers will expect the minimum to be reduced, but the facts stated should be before Conference when the reduction is made."

The passing of Rev. George Doe, of Bournemouth, on Friday last, removes from the Church one of its oldest and most faithful ministers. Born in 1835 he entered the ministry in 1855 and continued in the active work for forty-two years, superannuating in 1897, and settled at the Bournemouth Church. He continued to reside until the journey ended on Friday last. Several ministers survive him of equal age, but none older than he who gave more years of active work. His years of retirement in Bournemouth have been filled with peaceful content, characteristic of the whole of his life. Together with the loss of his minister, the Church has only by a few months, they nobly served the Church not only during their long ministry, but continued their devotion to its interests in their retirement. Around them they gathered many friends, both from within their own church and from churches outside. Until the loss of Mr. Doe during last autumn he continued in excellent health. The loss of one so faithful, so devoted, told upon him, and gradually his strength yielded until the inevitable was forced upon him. He was nursed throughout by his devoted daughter, Miss C. E. Doe, who for many years gave herself unreservedly to the care of her parents.

The appeal on behalf of children and women in famine-stricken Russia is still most urgent. "Famine is a hard foe to beat—for it rages a relentless war with an exterminating fury upon its helpless victims. With fiendish delight its tentacles attack its prey, and upon those whose tender years and unprotected condition, renders them an easy prey to its insensate fury. And this is why millions of poor little boys and girls have already succumbed to the rapacity of starvation. And unless we strive for its great effort to drive off its devastating violence until the harvest time, too, so surely as the sun rises and sets, will hundreds of thousands more of Russia's innocents follow their preceding millions into those dreary, darkened graves. It is our duty to darken the vast extent of a great country with funeral gloom." All donations sent to the *Leader* Fund are acknowledged in our columns.

Rev. H. R. Rycroft, missionary of New Guinea, under the Australian Methodist Conference, has arrived in England, and the President-designate has received letters of introduction from the Presbytery and the Conference (Rev. W. H. Greenwood) commending Mr. Rycroft and speaking in the highest terms of his ten years' missionary work. It is interesting to recall that Mr. Greenwood went out from the Sunderland Conference of 1892.

The "Primitive Methodist Journal," the organ of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States, announces that Rev. S. Rowley, of Bradford, will be visiting the churches in America during the present summer. He will be staying with Rev. J. J. Share, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Captain and Mrs. Samuel Coombe, of Bogle, St. Austell Circuit, have recently celebrated their golden wedding. "Capt. Coombe is a noted Cornish character. In the younger days he was a well-known Cornish wrestler. More than thirty years ago he joined our Church as a local preacher. When converted he was entirely illiterate. The same determination he had during his early years, and was now given to a higher service. When the call to preach came he was ready, and for more than thirty years he has been a faithful minister to thousands of people with his sermons and addresses. At the St. Austell Circuit Quarterly Meeting, held at New Mills, a record was made of his high Christian character and his loyal devotion to our Church.

Rev. Stanley A. Marsh, Northampton, desires to acknowledge the receipt of 10s. from "Crumbles" for the Million Shillings Fund.

Balkin.—At the special invitation of the Winkfield British Boy Scouts the Balham and Battersea British Boy and Girl Scouts attended a service on Sunday at the Winkfield Church. The church was packed. Mr. Armstrong, of East Ham, gave a fine address from the text, "The day of whom ye will serve." The singing and service proved a great success.

A GREAT EDUCATIONAL TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION

WILL BE HELD IN THE Conference Church (Woodhouse Lane U.M.)

Thursday, June 15, at 7.30 p.m.

Speakers: Rev. Courtenay C. Weeks, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of London, and the

Rev. W. E. Goodreid.

Chairman: J. R. Clapham, Esq., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman: J. L. Alcock, Esq.

Soloist: Miss Tristram.

Tea Table Conference at 5 p.m. in Brunswick Wesleyan Schoolroom, supported by the President and the Vice-President and the Ex-President and Vice-President and others.

WANTED, £1,000 for PROPAGANDA WORK in connection with the Educational Campaign of our own Church.

OPENING CEREMONY OF New Holiday Centre

"Balmoral House," Marlborough Road, Buxton, On MONDAY, JUNE 12th, at 3.30.

The MAYOR OF BUXTON will preside.

The Rev. G. BENNETT (Chairman of Management Committee) will open the House, supported by the President of Connexion and others. Tea provided by the Buxton Education Society.

"Balmoral" will be open all the year round. Terms: 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d., inclusive, according to bedroom. Applications to the Matron.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STATIONING COMMITTEE.

The Stationing Committee will meet at 8 o'clock on Monday Next, at Woodhouse Lane, Leeds (not 4 o'clock). Tea will be provided on the premises at 4.30. This will be an accommodation to members from distant districts. GEORGE ARMITAGE, Sec.

THE RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT.

London has had very little of the President's services; not by any means its fair share, but that is due partly to the fact that while the visit of the President of Conference is in many provincial towns a great event, in the Metropolis it counts but little. The element in the Churches which responds to the denominational shibboleth is very small indeed, and probably in nine circuits out of ten the minister of the station would get a congregation as large or larger than any of the popular orators of our Church. It is the personal life, the binds and the personal touches which tell. Years ago, when I was a young minister in London, I did not understand many things I understand now. I requested a Connexion officer to preach for me, taking it for granted that because he was a Connexion officer he was a preacher and would draw a crowd. Well, he didn't, and he had a bad time, and so had the congregation. Ever after, if my officials were inclined to kick over the traces, I threatened to bring another Connexion officer to preach to them.

Well, London got its turn this week. I preached on Sunday morning at Dorset-road, a very fine and vigorous people church situated amidst a dense population where very excellent work is being done.

On Monday I went to Chatham, calling at Rochester on my way down in order to see the Cathedral, the only one, I think, in England, with the exception of Canterbury. I have not previously visited. At Chatham we have a good chapel, and Mr. Ridley, its excellent minister, had done his best to make my visit a success. He has a touch of spiritual genius in him, and is a fine blend of the mystic and the practical. I preached to a fairly good congregation, and at the tea-table the circuit stewards and others spoke words of welcome. I lectured to a good audience, presided over by Mr. Reynolds, of Sittingbourne, and had a good time.

Tuesday found me back in London for an important committee, and at night I lectured on "The Wentworth Brothers" at Hammermith. The chairman, a Congregationalist, paid eloquent tribute to the ministry of Rev. John Holland, and voiced the regret of the whole neighbourhood that he was leaving at this Conference to take charge of the Kennington Circuit.

I should have gone to Yarmouth, according to my diary, on Thursday, but found that I had mistaken the date—the third minute of the kind made during my forty-one year's ministry, two of them, unfortunately, in this year, another proof that it is time to shed the shades of superannuation. My friend Rev. Tolleson Par kindly took my place at Yarmouth on the previous Thursday, so that what the good folk lost there in dignity they gained in ability.

Mrs. Louisa Pearson.

The Boston Church has lost another of its members in the passing away on May 25th of Mrs. Louisa Pearson, widow of the late Rev. John Pearson. Mrs. Pearson possessed a radiant faith in God, and always upheld Christ as the example upon which the Christian life should be based. Her valuable work in the circuits where her late husband laboured will never be accurately gauged. The funeral took place on May 28th, when the relatives and a large number of friends assembled. The church to pay their last tribute of respect to her memory. Rev. J. N. Clague speaking of her great energies on behalf of the church.

International Lesson.

Going About Doing Good.

Luke v. 12-26. June 18.

By HENRY C. MECHEAM, M.A., B.D.

The Golden Text (Acts x. 38) reminds us of the secret of our Lord's healing power. Luke was to mark the vividness of his description of the two cases brought before us in this lesson. But he was not concerned solely with the medical aspect of the cures. He sees their spiritual significance, and he knows his Jesus is able to go about doing good. It was because he had been Divinely anointed. "The power of the Lord was with him to heal" (Luke v. 17b).

(1) In the course of his journeyings in Galilee Jesus was a leper. Leprosy was the most dreadful of all the diseases of the ancient East. It affected the skin and was peculiarly loathsome. Highly contagious in nature, it necessitated for its victims complete separation from society. There was no hope of a permanent cure. How this leper in an advanced state of the disease came to be in a crowded city we do not know. But we can readily imagine how all the people would flee from his approach. But not so Jesus. He is touched by the sufferer's pitiable plea. Note that the leper has more faith in the power than in the willingness of Jesus to heal. At once with touch and word the Master makes him clean. It was often the habit of Jesus to signify the healing by a touch. In this case it was a daring act. How it would help to assure the sufferer that he was really cured. Notice that Jesus enjoins the leper to secrecy. Our Lord never sought notoriety. He merely charges the man to fulfil the legal requirements (cf. Lev. xiv. 1-9). Jesus' present lesson is marked with an offering before the priest to receive the certificate of his cleansing. But good news travels fast. Crowds of sick folk gathered round Jesus. Healing is always an exhausting ministry. See Luke viii. 46. No Jesus retires to the solitude that He might find new strength in prayer.

(2) The new power thus gained soon found a fresh outlet in the healing of the paralytic. This is one of the most interesting, as it is one of the most important, miracles of Jesus. The teacher should read the corresponding passages in Matt. ix. 2-8, Mark ii. 3-12. The main points in Luke's account are—

(a) The persistence of the man's friends. Finding that they cannot reach Jesus because of the crowd (verse 10), they carry their burden up to the flat roof, climbing up by an outside stairway, a familiar feature of Eastern houses. Then through an opening in the tiles they lower the couch and its occupant. If Jesus was teaching in an upper room they would not have so lower their charge very far. There is something very touching about the trouble these four men took on behalf of their friend. It suggests also that they had great faith in Jesus' power to heal.

(b) The response of Jesus to this double appeal of faith and friendship. The words that mark the healing act are significant. "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee." It is evident that here we have another case of suffering resulting from sin (cf. John v. 14). Jesus never dealt with men according to their deserts. So here note first forgiveness, then restoration to health.

(c) The justification by Jesus of His claim to forgive sins. They cannot deny that Jesus can heal (the proof we have before their eyes). Why should they doubt that He can also forgive?

(d) The second case is in the praise of God by both paralytic and people. Once again Jesus had made manifest the works of God by His ministry of healing.

Endeavour Topic.

Apostolic Aspirations.

By all means to save some.

1 Cor. ix. 19-22. June 11.

By Rev. JOHN T. BELL.

To win men for Christ was the master-passion in the life of Paul. Throughout his great career as a missionary he took upon him the compulsion of this all-compelling ideal. He suffered patiently, endured courageously, sacrificed freely, laboured hopefully, to bring men into the way of the redemptive spirit of the Christ. He was willing to suffer all things lest he might be hindered in the Gospel of Christ. He would not avail himself of privileges which he readily allowed to others, lest an imputation of self-seeking should hinder the progress of the Gospel. The right of maintenance was waived so that he might the more freely follow his great vocation of Saviourhood. He wished to feel himself perfectly free, so that he might the more fully become the servant of all. Free from all control, he became the slave of all to win the more; untrammelled by any particular ties, he was able to adapt himself to every condition and class of men, and thus win for the Gospel larger gains.

This aspiration of the great Apostle to himself unreservedly to devote for men is the governing principle which determines our contact with our fellows in all relationships. The Christian disciple's relationship to his fellow-men is, above all else, one of service. Paul's ambition to be all things to all men in order that he might save some shows how perfectly he had caught the spirit of his Master. The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and He took infinite pains to impress that ideal upon His first disciples; and to be "our great vocation." We must not regard Christian service as an "extra" but as essential as something quite fundamental in the primitive and authoritative conception of the Christian life. The primary aim of others may be "to get"; for us, it is more blessed to give than to receive. We must be serving all the time, and the end of our service is to *save*.

Sympathy, faith, and identification with those whom we would save are necessary qualifications if we are to be successful in our vocation of Saviourhood. Paul was willing to adapt himself to all varieties of opinion and feeling among different classes, in order that he might save some. This did not involve any violation of moral principle, nor the sacrifice of any truth of the Gospel. Paul's determination to become all things to all men was simply his willingness to see things from their point of view, and to sympathise fully with their needs. And to serve our fellows in order that we may save them, we must seek to cultivate this power of adaptation; we must possess that sympathy which will keep us sensitive to the needs of others; and we must leave untried no method calculated to lead to success.

Mr. Eli Payton.

A memorial service in memory of the late Mr. Eli Payton was held at Vicar-street Church, Dudley, on Sunday, when Rev. John Carter presented a very impressive sermon from Heb. ii. 2. Mr. Joseph Perkins, of Smethwick, a lifelong friend of the deceased, and a former official of Vicar-street Church, prepared the memoir. Mr. Payton will be greatly missed. He never sought the limelight, and his modest and useful men who are a source of strength to any Church. As a teacher, school superintendent, trustee, he rendered important service. Letters of tribute to his valuable service, loyalty and devotion were read from former ministers of the circuit, Messrs. F. R. Atty, B. D. Kelley. The service was most impressive. The musical part, arranged by Messrs. Charles Goddard and D. Hudson, was very effective.

LEEDS CONFERENCE.

JUNE 12th-22nd.

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Early application for both the above is necessary to avoid disappointment.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20th.

* at 7.30 p.m.

Great Demonstration on National Questions

AT ALBERT HALL.

Chairman:

Sir MICHAEL E. SADLER, L.L.D. Vice-Chancellor of University of Leeds.

Speaker:

Professor GILBERT MURRAY, L.L.D., Regius Professor of Greek, University of Oxford.

Subject:

"International Confidence and how to achieve it."

All Seats are Numbered and Reserved 2/- and 1/- (postage extra) obtained from Rev. D. BRADY, Woodhouse Lane U.M. Church, Leeds.

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Quarterly Meetings.

Batley.—Rev. Wm. J. Walker presided. Heavy vote of appreciation of anonymous gift of £166 to Wellington Street Trust; also of splendid financial efforts at General and West Aidsley. Circuit account showed a balance in hand after meeting exceptionally heavy expenditure. Outlook full of promise.

Bridlington.—Meeting held at Flamborough. Tea was provided by the Flamborough Society. A large attendance at the tea resulted in £7 10s. being added to the Flamborough Renovation Fund. Rev. J. McKinney was congratulated on reaching his ministerial jubilee. Substantial balance in hand. Rudston congratulated on extinction of debt. Harthorpe on its successful renovation. At 7 o'clock Mr. A. Todd, at an open session, delivered a telling address on "The Culture of the Soul." A crowning point was reached in the meeting when a soul decided for Christ.

Buckley.—Meeting held at Payford. Mr. A. Powell and the chairman gave a capital report of their visit as delegates to the Synod. The circuit steward announced a balance in hand of £2 19s. 1d. Steps are being taken to secure a successor to Rev. T. D. Phillips, who leaves in 1924 after five years. Rev. C. Moore accepted a hearty and unanimous invitation for a seventh year—1925.

Boston.—A resolution of sympathy was passed with Mr. S. A. Pearson (junior circuit steward) in the loss of his mother, the widow of the late Rev. John Pearson. The meeting also expressed its sincere regret at the passing away of Ald. W. Greenfield, J.P., and placed on record its very high appreciation of his Christian character and the invaluable service he rendered to the circuit. Financial statement showed a balance in hand of over £13. "Five pounds" was voted to augment the circuit's contribution to the Million Shillings scheme.

Women's Missionary Federation.

Barnsley First and Second.—The Monthly Meetings were held at Brierley. In the afternoon Rev. J. D. Dando preached a very helpful sermon. Tea was generously provided by the ladies of the church. In the evening Mrs. Hanson presided over the missionary meeting, when Mrs. Bernard Baily gave a splendid address. Miss Hibbert was the soloist. The missionary letter was read by Mrs. Wright. Proceeds for African funds £2 15s. 9d. A special effort has been made towards Conference Day. A missionary demonstration was given by Pitt-croft Wesleyan Girls' class. The girls, who were dressed in native costumes, had been ably trained by Mrs. T. W. Bevers. Miss Vero presided. Revs. J. T. Clarke and J. D. Dando and Mrs. Dando voiced the thanks of the Auxiliary. Proceeds £10.

Darlington.—The Monthly Meeting was held at Rise Carr, presided over by Mrs. Andrews. A solo was rendered by Miss Feldon, and the missionary letter read by Mrs. Brown. Rev. E. B. Holby, M.A., B.D., gave a most interesting address. Tea was provided, and a collection taken for the funds.

Gorleston.—The Beccles-road branch monthly meeting was presided over by Rev. H. W. Marsh, who also gave a very interesting address. Mrs. Ringwood read the letter from Mrs. Kerwell, and Mrs. Seaby delightfully rendered solos. Mrs. W. Wright celebrated her seventy-seventh birthday by providing liberal refreshments, and the congratulations of the meeting were accorded her collection for Missionary Fund.

Leicester.—Glorious weather favoured the May meeting held at Thurnby. About 120 present. Sister Miriam presided, Rev. A. Jubb gave

the address. Miss Lovell recited, and the secretary read the missionary letter. The tea was given by Mrs. Lovell, and realised £4 15s. Advantage was taken of the occasion to present a travelling bag to Mrs. W. Smith, who has been associated with the movement since its inception, and is now district secretary. Mrs. Warner made touching reference to her interest in the work, and expressed the best wishes of all for her future welfare.

Oldham.—The monthly meeting held at Lees-road Church took the form of an "At Home." Mr. and Mrs. H. Ellis presided. Musical items were given by Mrs. J. Bosworth and Messrs. F. Heath and J. H. Cheetham. Elocutionist, Mr. G. C. Etherington. Pianist, Mrs. Lees Schofield. Mrs. Farnale, of Birkenhead, who was the organiser of our Oldham branch, gave a very interesting and encouraging address. Mesdames Bayfield and Etherington, and Revs. T. Banks and W. J. Tristram also took part. Refreshments were kindly given by the Lees-road ladies. Proceeds £5 8s.

St. Helen's, Auckland.—On Wednesday two special meetings were held at Toft Hill. Rev. G. B. Richardson (superintendent) preached to a large congregation in the afternoon, after which tea was served. Mrs. S. J. Raine was the soloist and Mrs. J. W. Walker read the missionary letter. In the evening the R.L.W.C. Prize Quartette Party rendered a fine programme to an appreciative audience; chairman, Rev. G. B. Richardson. Record gatherings and collections. Arrangements made for a garden party in June.

Sheffield.—On Thursday a drawing room meeting was held at Stocksbridge. Langsett-road Circuit, at which Mrs. Albert Hill presided, and an address was delivered by Mrs. E. Batty on "The Women of San Carlos," which was greatly appreciated. During her residence at Burncross Mrs. Batty has

rendered unstinted service to the Women's Auxiliary. Miss Elsie Morris was the soloist, with Mr. Hill accompanying. Rev. S. Bates and Mrs. Hill took part in the proceedings, and the collection realised £5 7s. 7d.

Tunstall District.—The monthly meeting was held at Longton, presided over by Mrs. John Deswick. A very helpful address was given by Mr. Collis. Mrs. A. G. Jones read the missionary letter, and Mrs. W. Bewick rendered a solo. Miss Allen was the accompanist. An excellent tea was provided by the Longton ladies. Collection £1 8s.

The Metropolitan Free Church Federation have arranged a great Free Church Demonstration in connection with the City and County of London Committee of the British League of Help for "Verdun" (France), that will be held in the City Temple, Holborn, on Thursday, June 15th, at 7.30 p.m. Sir R. Murray Hyslop, B.T., L.H., will preside, supported by the Lord Mayor of London and Mayors of other townships interested in helping French towns, the French Ambassador and Madame la Comtesse De Saint Aubrie, Marshal Pétain (the defender of Verdun) and Madame Moline, (wife of Scott Lidgett, M.A., D.D., Rev. T. Nightingale, Rev. I. Gwennie Jenkins, Mr. Harold Spender, and Mr. John Weir, F.R.G.S. Reserved seat tickets, admitting from 6.45 p.m. to 7.20 p.m., may be obtained from the undersigned on receipt of stamped addressed envelope. Early application is urged, as already there is a big demand for them. At 7.20 p.m. the doors will be open to the public. A collection will be taken on behalf of the "Verdun" Fund—F. A. Rees, Secretary M.P.C.F., 30, Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, E.C. 4.

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On The Brink Of The Grave

**RUSSIA'S STARVING CHILDREN STILL MENACED
BY HUNGER'S PITILESS DEATH.**

**Now, More Than Ever, Is There An Imperative
Need For Instant and Liberal Aid.**

FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED—FREELY GIVE.

LIKE poor dumb driven sheep to the shambles, the grim procession of Russia's innocent starving children still wends its pitiful way to these deep-dug, yawning graves with which hunger has bestrewn the breadth and length of that unhappy land.

Starvation has sentenced them to the cruellest death which could be inflicted on wretched victims whose utter helplessness but adds to the misery and suffering which famine with vicious fury tortures them, and no respite is theirs unless you, in common with all Christian people, stretch forth the saving hand of succour.

For children to die an untimely death, under any circumstance, is an unnatural thing; but when such a fate is attended by the horrors and agonies of long-drawn starvation, then the mind revolts and the soul shudders in its vain endeavour to but partially conceive what these poor babes and boys and girls endure.

A STAGGERING TRUTH.

Were there but hundreds confronted with such a sad destiny, it would be our manifest duty to protect and save them—but, alas! it is the staggering truth that the whole child life of a nation is threatened with extinction, for millions of these poor precious little lives are in jeopardy—and millions of little creaked frames are bearing the cruel impress and seal of emaciation.

And as surely as the sun will set—just as certainly must they perish unless food sufficient to keep the spark of life alive is forthcoming.

To the eternal honour of the Christian creed a great deal has been done by the "Save the Children Fund" to stem this devastation of child life.

The fact that no fewer than 1,200 kitchens have been opened in the worst stricken areas—that millions of plain sustaining meals have been distributed—in a glorious tribute to that Christian charity which refuses to recognise racial differences or colour restrictions, but having put the hand to the plough it would be a lasting reproach to



To such desperate straits have the people been driven in some districts that they have eaten the straw with which their houses were roofed—and the rest of their homes has been used for fuel. Now, foodless and without shelter, they huddle together or wander forth to die! Buffering unparalleled in its intensity is the lot of hundreds of thousands. It beggars description and defies imagination. Those who have witnessed it say that they have been through Hell. For Marjory's sake, give, give again and continue to give.

abandon the good work.

Think of those wistful eyes—deep sunk in hollows—filmed over with the glassiness of impending death—think of those poor stunted frames, of those protruding bones, mere shadows of once humanity, scarcely able to stand or crawl, and ask yourself the pointed question: Have I not a divinely inspired duty to perform? Must I not obey the Redeemer's mandate, and, in a real and literal sense, feed these abandoned bairns, who, lacking your charity, must perish and wither away before the bud of life can blossom?

PESTILENCE ADDED TO THE HORRORS OF STARVATION.

Before Russia's full harvest can be garnered in there are the torrid summer months to face, when heat added to hunger will breed pestilence and epidemics and then lay low hundreds of thousands more of defenceless children.

In the name of all that is holy and religious it is imperative that every Christian heart should graciously and liberally respond to the cries of these starving little innocents—or otherwise the bloodstain will become more hideously high, and the scythe of the relentless Reaper must mow down myriads more.

The Save the Children Fund, The Russian Famine Relief Fund, The Society of Friends Fund, realising how stupendous the task of relief is and the need for co-operation, have agreed to work together under a JOINT COMMITTEE of representatives of each fund with Sir Benjamin Robertson as Chairman.

Will you allow the children to cry in vain? Must their scarcely audible moaning fall on deaf ears and closely shuttered hearts?

Nay, this is unthinkable and impossible, for Now-To-day you will at once act on the generous promptings of love, which, in its catholicity, considers every child in the world as a member of the great flock which Christ calls His own.

"SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND."

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

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TO LORD WEARDALL,

Chairman of Committee of "Save the Children Fund" (Room 318)

42, Langham Street, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

SIR—I would like to make a gift to help the Starving Children in the Famine areas of Russia and send you a donation to the "Save the Children Fund"

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