

## Consecration Hymn.

BY MRS. J. C. YULE.

Great God, forbid that we, in vain delights,  
Should waste our days and dissipate our rights,  
Strangely unmindful that we owe to thee  
All that we have, or are, or hope to be.

Baptized into thy name, the Father, Son  
And Holy Spirit, sacred Triune One,  
What have we now to do with self and pride,  
And earthly pomps for whom the Saviour died?

Beside the cross help us to wait and watch  
His gracious voice to bear, His glance to catch,  
Then with swift feet to do His bidding fly,  
Strong for each duty, knowing He is nigh.

## The Conference at Calcutta.

During the sessions of the Decennial Missionary Conference at Calcutta, a daily report was published. I have sent the LINK a copy of that report, which I trust will be duly received. Now, however, I wish to give some personal impressions of the great meeting.

I am sure that all lovers of the Lord will rejoice to hear that there seemed to be a spirit of true consecration in all that was said and done. There seemed to be a general feeling that we needed more of the Spirit's power in our work, and hence earnest prayers went up for this blessing. More than once allusion was made to the vision of dry bones in which the prophet was commanded to prophesy to the breath after he had prophesied to the bones. So it was said that we must call on the Spirit to come and breathe upon the slain, that they may live.

A great many ladies were present at the Conference. The session on Monday forenoon was devoted to the discussion of the women's work in India. The papers were all read by women, and afterwards the speeches on the subjects treated by the essayists, were all made by women. The men had no chance at all. It was admitted on all sides that this was the most interesting and best sustained session of the conference.

Mrs. Tucker, wife of Major Tucker, of the Salvation Army, was one of the speakers. Her remarks contained much good sense, I thought. I heard her on Sunday, the 31st Dec., also, and was much struck with what she said. I was moved to tears as I heard her speak of the struggles she had gone through in giving up all for Christ's sake. She said it was not pleasant to see former friends curl their lips in scorn. It was not pleasant to be ridiculed, but what she had done, she had done because she felt the Lord called her to do it for the sake of His work. She spoke very strongly on the subject of women preaching in public, and cited the history of Deborah and others in proof of what God can do through weak women.

At the Conference we met Miss Higby, Miss Mitchell, and some others from Burmah. In fact one of the best things about such conferences is the meeting with fellow-missionaries from various parts of India.

As will be seen from the printed report the medical work of missions was represented as very important. This seems to be particularly the case with our lady missionaries, as so many of the women of India are debarrd from the help of medical men. It might be well for our sisters at home to keep this fact in mind, so that when the time comes to send out another lady, they may send one who is more or less acquainted with medicine.

On Saturday last, the 6th January, a party of us em-

For the LINK.

barked for the South. The party consists of Mr. and Mrs. Timpany, Mr. Boggs, Mr. Sanford, Mr. McLaurin and myself. Some of us intend to land at Bimli and go up to Bobbili to our own conference, which is to meet there. At present we are lying off Puri or Juggernaut. The top of the famous temple is visible from the steamer. We went off this morning to see it, but could only walk around the wall and look in the gates, as no Europeans are admitted inside. When will these great temples and mosques become the abode of wild beasts and places of desolation? The best answer we can give is to press on with our work more eagerly, more vigorously and more devotedly. Were all true Christians fully consecrated to the Lord's service, I believe the day would soon come. As it is, there are thousands who care so little about the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom that they will not give even their silver and gold. We missionaries thank God continually for the work our sisters are doing in gathering up the mites. May the Lord bless every faithful labourer in the home department of our great work!

JOHN CRAIG.

India, January 9, 1883.

## First Principles.

[The following article from the *Helping Hand* for January, is inserted with the hope that it may serve as a note of warning. Our Canadian churches have not indeed shown any falling off in their contributions, yet in one or two localities we fear we begin to detect an inclination on the part of the brethren to leave the whole of the Foreign Mission work to the women's circles, "because they are doing so well."]

Since drifting is always easier than keeping the straight course, it is wise occasionally to take fresh observations and make sure of the position. For this, no time is more appropriate than the new year.

Our Society began its work nearly twelve years ago, as helper of the Missionary Union. Our purpose, as then avowed, was to secure a gift of two cents a week to the cause of missions from every Baptist woman in our churches; and this to be strictly in addition to what she was doing before for all the charities of the Christian Church. In these twelve years, we have seen no reason to alter our position or change our purpose. Has there been any unconscious drifting from it?

There most certainly has been in some localities, if there is no mistake in the following statement of one of the District Secretaries of the Missionary Union:—

While rejoicing in the success of the women's circles, I cannot otherwise than deeply deplore the very prevalent tendency, especially in the small churches in the rural districts, to substitute the contributions of the circles for those of the church. To such an extent is this the case that a standing excuse for a small church collection, or for none at all, is, "Our women do pretty well for foreign missions."

Sad perversion this would be of the true object of the woman's organization! We must hope that the statement is exaggerated, and that occasional might be substituted for "very prevalent"; but that it should be even suggested by fact is greatly to be regretted. Such a tendency would be deprecated by none more earnestly than by the officers of the Women's Society. Our movement was never designed to excuse our churches from contributing to the Missionary Union. The expectation was that, in every case, as we know it has been in many, the enthusiasm called forth by our Society would tend to fill rather than deplete the coffers of the Union.

Again, we read of "one church in which the collection was, a few years ago, one hundred dollars. Now, the women's circle gives one hundred dollars, and the church fifty."