

SPECIAL  
ARTICLES

## Our Contributors

BOOK  
REVIEWSGwalior Presbyterian Mis-  
sion.

## Short Story of Its First Year.

The birthday of the Gwalior Presbyterian Mission may be kept on October 13th, as it was on the evening of that day, that Dr. and Mrs. Wilkie publicly received their "God Speed" from the friends, whose representatives among the dark and neglected men and women of Gwalior they were prepared to be. They sailed the next afternoon.

They passed through Scotland just in time to be present, Friday, October 29th at the last meeting held by the United Free Church in the New College, Edinburgh: to be stirred by Dr. Rainy's "quiet, pathetic enthusiasm," and to watch the "fitting" the next day.

On the King's birthday they left Port Said for their sail on the Suez Canal. Dr. Wilkie writes: "We were soon passing through the land of Goshen, that once gave such rich returns to its millions. (A few flocks of pelicans represent these millions now.) About half way along the Canal we came to Ismailia, very near to the buried granaries that were almost certainly put up by the Israelites. . . . As I came to Suez I was more than ever made to realize that it is the probable crossing-place of the Children of Israel. . . . The journey through this land of sacred associations has stirred up many memories and solemn reflections."

A month later our missionaries were in the city of Gwalior, watching for an opportunity to obtain sanction from the Maharajah for the prosecuting of the work in his territories, especially for the securing of a house as a dwelling place and a centre of operations.

The Prince had appeared first in a very gracious attitude. Dr. Wilkie writes from Gwalior, December 8th, "Yesterday I was able to see him for a short time. He was at the railway station amidst his officials, but as soon as he saw me he came over, invited me to take a cup of tea with him, and talked about the college at Indore. When I inquired if he could give me a corner in his territory, he asked me to come and see him later at Gwalior."

So at the Residency, Gwalior, during the next month, our missionaries waited the pleasure of the great man who feels so important, and yet who, all unknown to himself, is just working out the purpose of the One "in whose hand his breath is." While there waiting Dr. Wilkie had already two native Christians, Joshua and another man, breaking ground in and around Goona, Jan. 5th. "Yesterday I was permitted to see the Maharajah, and regret to say that he will not give us any footing in his territory. He gave no reason for this, nor was he at all willing even to see us." Yet the great man only closed a door that God meant to be closed, that our missionaries might be free to enter in at another door that He had himself, in the meantime, thrown wide open.

During that month of waiting Dr. Wilkie had spent a few days at Allahabad, where the first General Assembly of the newly formed Presbyterian Church in India had met Dec. 19th. While there Dr. Henry Forman, an honored member of the well-known missionary family of that name had sought him out, and urgently invited him to come and work as a brother with him at Jhansi, which is in British territory, and yet only a few miles east of the Gwalior boundary.

As soon as the Maharajah closed the door against the direct occupation of his

territory, Dr. Wilkie was free to accept, subject to the approval of his Board, the repeated and most cordial invitation of Dr. Forman to locate with him at Jhansi. Thus God has led to brotherly relations with a brother indeed, and to the occupancy with him of a large, growing, and needy city, where British law prevails, and yet commanding easy access to Gwalior territory, and so to the steady prosecuting of the work there.

Then Dr. Wilkie went down to Goona to join his native workers. January 13th, just three months after the farewell meeting, he writes: "I have been cheered to see how well those simple Christians have been carrying on the work."

He tells of one old man, the leader of his caste people, "who came forward, and in the most solemn way put his hands on the heads of his two boys and said, 'These are your disciples, and I we in this house are your brothers. This is the truth, and we want all the people to know it.'" He tells also of a "holy man," leader of one of the idolatrous sects, who was much impressed.

For two months more he and his native helpers, now reinforced by the voluntary coming of Gokal and Ramlal, two of the famine boys itinerated among the villages around Goona. They also took exploratory journeys to other Gwalior towns, watching which would be the best region for the reopening of the work when the hot season which must shortly drive them all to seek better shelter from the blazing Indian sun than tents could afford.

The four very hot months, from the middle of March to the middle of July, have been spent at Jhansi, at first doing native Mahalla, or caste work in the city, and school work among the children. But as the heat at last got too severe for that, the native workers, men and women of them, were gathered into a Summer school for Bible study, reading in speaking study of the best methods, mutual edification and prayer. This has proved a means of grace, a means of intellectual growth and a means of unification among the different workers, so constantly separated during actual work, which has been much appreciated at Jhansi, and probably the Summer school will recur at intervals with growing profit.

It is early to speak of results, as these must always be tested before they are counted. But there are some things for which we "thank God and take courage." The Gospel has been lived and preached in more than thirty towns and villages in Gwalior territory, especially around Goona. Many Bible portions and other small books, as well as Christian leaflets, have been sold among the people. During one journey to Jhalra-Patan, more than 900 books, and 1,200 leaflets were scattered. "The seed is the word." The blessed Gospel has also been lovingly lived and taught in several large Mahallas in Jhansi, and planted to some extent in the minds of not a few school children there. One convert, a promising young Brahmin, has already been baptized, and six of those interested in the Goona district have retained their interest during the four months' absence of their teachers, and are still holding to their profession and asking to be baptized, the old caste leader who offered his two sons as disciples, and the holy man before mentioned being two of the number. Then it is not a small matter that twenty of our native believers are in active training as Christian workers, and in social training as a Christian community.

"The Lord hath been mindful of us; He will bless us." Amen.

Note.—This sketch was written for the September number of the Journal of the Gwalior Presbyterian Mission, as that was the first number of its second year. Those wishing to keep in close touch with Dr. Wilkie and his work should subscribe for the Journal; 50c. per single copy; 25c. each in clubs of six or over; papers sent to one address. Apply to (Mrs.) Anna Ross, 38 Collier St., Toronto.

## TORONTO.

Next October Dr. Milligan will complete thirty years of fruitful service in old St. Andrew's pulpit, Toronto.

That the excellent work being done by Rev. H. A. McPherson in Chalmers Church is appreciated is evidenced by the increase of his salary from \$2,200 to \$2,400. The congregation is steadily growing.

The pressing need of men for the ministry in this country was the subject of Prof. Ballantyne's address at the conference between Knox College students and faculty last Friday.

Rev. Mr. Gandier, pastor of St. James' Square Church, was present at tea at Knox College on Monday, and gave an address on "Young People's Organizations."

The New Brunswick delegates to Nashville paid a visit to Knox on Monday. They received a hearty welcome and an exceedingly pleasant day was spent together, the visitors being present at luncheon and delivering addresses.

The nominations for the annual election of officers of the Missionary Society of Knox College were held on Tuesday, and the nominees for the presidency are D. S. Die, M.A. and J. A. Shawness, M.A. As the nominations at the Theological and Literary Society were held last week, the election of officers for both societies is now before the students and a good deal of electioneering is being done.

Mr. T. A. Lyle presided at a pleasant meeting of Avenue Road Presbyterians, when the pastor, Rev. W. J. Stenham, who recently delivered a call to St. Mark's Church, Montreal, was made the recipient of a purse containing \$150.00 in gold. Mrs. Stenham was also made the recipient of a number of sterling silver pieces, valued at \$100, by the ladies of the church. Addresses were delivered by Dr. McTavish, Dr. Neil, Dr. Wallace, Prof. Ballantyne, Prof. McFadden and Rev. A. E. Geggie. It goes without saying that the members of the congregation are greatly pleased at Mr. Stenham's decision.

Deep satisfaction was expressed by pastor and people at St. James' Square Church at the reports presented. The ordinary revenue account showed receipts of \$7,437.63, all of which was expended, exceeding \$365.96 transferred to the repair fund, almost wiping out a liability of \$863.43 incurred for repairs to the lecture room and parlors. It was decided to proceed this year with the redecoration of the church interior and other work at an estimated cost of \$2,500. The session reported that the present membership was 718, a net gain of 42 over Jan. 1st, 1905, and the largest in the history of the church. The retiring managers, Messrs. Bruce, Bulk, Gordon, Grant, McIntosh, Nain and Watt, were re-elected, as were the auditors, Messrs. W. M. Douglas and W. Cowan.

Some of the trees bear fruit; rosy apples, luscious pears, ruddy plums and cherries, are all there.