

followed by that of the whole British force. But in the morning it was found that the Boers had fled. It is stated also that General Hunter got two squadrons to destroy the railway line near Smaldeel, which is the next important station on the railway, and the junction of the main line with the Winburg branch to the eastward. This report also states, or rather implies, that Winburg had been taken by General Hamilton. This may be the fact, though at present writing it cannot be regarded as certain. Winburg is about 30 miles northeast from Brandfort and about 20 miles east from Smaldeel. The British force operating north of Kimberly is also pushing forward against strong opposition. Barton's brigade is reported to have crossed the Vaal river at Windsorton, on Friday, after a sharp engagement with the enemy, who have evacuated Windsorton and Klipdam and are retiring northward pursued by Barton. General Paget is reported to be engaging the Boers at Warrenton, near the Vaal. It is evident that General Hunter has not got very far in the direction of Mafeking yet, and there is nothing beyond improbable rumors to indicate that its relief is very near. Reports from the Thaba N'Chu district indicates that the Boers are gradually being driven northward and eastward.

Later despatches confirm the report of the occupation of Winburg by General Hamilton. Lord Roberts has advanced from Vet River to Smaldeel. Winburg and Smaldeel seem to be about 25 miles apart, and have railway connection. The general advance has been carried out with great precision and with small loss to the British. The Boers have not lost heavily. A few of their guns and some valuable stores have been captured. They have retired hastily to stronger positions. Their next important stand against Lord Roberts' forces will probably be made at Kroonstadt, which is 60 miles north of Smaldeel. The positions which Lord Roberts has now gained, with so comparatively little loss, are highly important to future operations, but the hard fighting will come farther on unless the Boer leaders shall recognize the hopelessness of their cause and surrender.

Editorial Notes

—It is generally wise to make the best of a bad situation when one is powerless to change it. It is unprofitable business quarrelling with fate or with Providence, and what seems a great misfortune often turns out to be a blessing in disguise. Even if it does not, there is always possible the incidental discipline of misfortune patiently borne. He who learns to endure trouble with a trustful, cheerful spirit is getting so much good out of his life's experience that it would take a very large measure of worldly prosperity to balance the account.

—One of those terrible disasters which sadden the records of the coal mining industry occurred in connection with the Schofield mine, in the state of Utah on Tuesday last, causing the death, as is believed, of about 250 persons. It is said that the disaster was caused by the explosion of powder stored in the mine for blasting purposes. Some idea of the terrific force of the explosion may be gathered from the statement that the rush of air from the mouth of the main entrance of the mine was sufficient to blow a man and his team across the gulch almost two hundred yards wide.

—According to statistics presented at the New York Ecumenical Conference by Dr. Dennis, there are 249 societies now directly engaged in foreign mission work. Of these there are in the British Isles 54; the United States 49; Asia 29; Africa 28; Australia and Oceania 26; Germany 15; Netherlands 10; Canada 8; Sweden 7; the West Indies 11; Norway 4; Denmark 3; France and Switzerland, 2 each; Finland, 1. The total income is put down at \$17,161,092, of which over \$8,000,000 come from England and Scotland. The United States contributes \$5,403,000, and Germany \$1,430,000. The total number of missionaries, male and female, including medical missionaries, is 15,607. Of these England sends 5,136, and Scotland 653, the United States 4,110, and Germany 1,515. The number of organized churches is given as 10,993, and the number of communicants 1,289,298.

—A Universalist minister in New York city having stated in a sermon that Unitarians and Universalists were not included in the invitation to the Ecumenical Conference because of their position in respect to the doctrine of future punishment, 'The Outlook' calls attention to the fact that the Conference was made up of delegates not from churches but from foreign missionary societies and foreign missionary boards, and that in neither of the denominations mentioned above is there any foreign missionary society or organized board of management. If, therefore, the Unitarians and Universalists have taken so little interest in foreign missions as to have no one to respond to the general invitation to the Conference, the failure to be included is simply due to their own limitations. This failure to participate in the Conference and the great work for which it stands, however much it is to be regretted, is evidently a matter of their own election.

—Alluding to some recent remarks in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR in respect to publishing the Circular Letters of the Associations, the Canadian Baptist of Toronto makes the following observa-

tions, in which we fully concur: "We are sure the better way is for Associations to abstain from voting the publication of either sermon or letter in the denominational papers. Should all papers, sermons and letters that are thus voted be published, the 'Baptist' would have enough to overload it all the year. When an association begins the practice of voting to publish, unless it is carried through in all cases, some will feel aggrieved. If a paper or sermon is of distinguished merit, our paper will be glad to request it of the author. Many of the ablest brethren refuse to send their productions to the paper when thus voted because they think it a wrong method."

—The New York Evening Post, whose unfriendly attitude toward Christianity has been the subject of frequent remark in the religious press of America, has felt moved in the presence of the Ecumenical Missionary Conference to pay the following tribute to the work of modern missions: "In the light of the great achievements of missionary zeal and sacrifice, the candid observer can reach only one conclusion. He must grant that the tremendous ethical impulse now visible among once degraded peoples is largely due to the teachings of the missionaries. As a mere business proposition in the interest of good morals, if we may argue from the lower to the higher plane, missions are paying investments. In the large view of the cause, mission enterprise has abundant *raison d'être*. If no other evidence were forthcoming in support of this proposition, the testimony of civil and military officers in India, men knowing the ground minutely, affords ample corroboration. Christian missions, by bringing immediate light and knowledge to the dark places of the earth, have sensibly diminished the area of wretchedness and misery. And the Christian propaganda, where wisely undertaken, has disarmed prejudice, and set in motion currents of both spiritual and material blessings."

—Rev. H. F. Laflamme of Cocanada, India, sends us a prospectus and sample copy of a Telugu newspaper, "Ravi," which he expects to publish weekly from the first of July. It is a single sheet the page being about the size of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. The paper is of good quality and the Telugu type presents a very clear and handsome appearance. The headings of the sample copy are in English. The principal topics discussed are "History of the South African Republic," "The Sources of Dispute between the Boers and the British," "The Hindu Gains of Learning Bill," "Irrigation Cess Bill," "The Famine," "History of the Transvaal War," "Local and District News," "Indian and Foreign News," "A Religious Sermon." The object, the prospectus states, is to give the Telugus a TRUE record of the news of the day, with an editorial on current events and other editorials which will deal with matters of special and practical interest to Telugu people. Medical and legal advice will be given through the paper to subscribers. A short article in each number will present Christian truth in simple language and will be the only direct indication of the Christian character of the paper. The paper is to be without any denominational or sectarian bias, but a Christian spirit will pervade the entire conduct of the enterprise, and be, it is hoped, a quiet and powerful influence for good.

From Evangelist Marple.

Not having written anything for your paper since returning from the West, I shall give a brief review of the past six months' labor with the churches.

The first few weeks were spent with Bro. Tiner at Salisbury. All who know Bro. Tiner will agree with me when I say he is never satisfied with the condition of things. If he has six preaching stations that will only make him anxious for more. As a result of those meetings over twenty joined the church. Pleased to learn that one of the number expects to attend Acadia Seminary next year. Bro. Tiner is busy arranging to build a new house of worship, which will be a credit to the town as well as honoring to God.

Leaving this field I went to assist Bro. Addison, at Alma and Waterside, N. B. At Alma we found a beautiful new house of worship and a faithful band of workers. Some twenty joined the church and others professed conversion. At Waterside we found one of the finest country churches in the province under way of construction. I think there were twenty-two put on Christ by baptism. Bro. Addison is doing grand work on this field. I received an invitation from Bro. L. J. Tingley, across the Bay, to "come over and help us" at Clementsvalle. First I wondered why Bro. Tingley needed an evangelist as he is an evangelist himself. He has had grand revivals on the different fields where he has labored. The Lord blessed our united efforts and over forty united with the church. I understand Bro. Tingley is going for a few months to the Bible Institute, Chicago.

Bro. Atkinson, pastor of the churches of Jacksonville and Jacksonville, gave me a very hearty invitation to assist him in special meetings. Twelve were baptized by us and some joined the Free Baptists. Am sorry to hear that Bro. Atkinson has been compelled to leave this church on account of ill health. From there I went to Antigonish, and although our constituency there is

small, yet they are a noble little band. The Lord blessed the Word and some twenty-five expressed a desire to be saved. I have heard it stated a number of times, that Bros. M. Freeman and W. H. Robinson were two of our most consecrated pastors. Knowing something of Bro. Freeman and his work and after spending a few weeks with Bro. Robinson, I am quite willing to accept the statement as correct. Bro. Wm. Cummings of Truro, who has taken such an interest in the colored people of the town, arranged to have me come and assist in some special meetings, as a result the church was revived. Twenty united by baptism; two by letter. Bro. F. H. Adams very kindly assisted in the work. Bro. Cummings is to have a few meetings this week as there are others on the way. I wish to say our colored brethren did nobly financially. They need a leader. They have a nice new house of worship, and a preacher who is called of God can get a good congregation. A young man once said to one of the old Doctors, "I believe, Doctor, that I have been called to preach the gospel." "Very well," said the old divine, "Go out and see if the people are called to hear you." There are two calls necessary. J. A. MARPLE.

New Books.

The Bishop's Shadow by I. T. Thurston; with illustrations by M. Eckerson. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.25.

This book is scarcely what one would expect from the title. It is largely a story of boy life among the slums of Boston. How true to life it may be we cannot say. It is at any rate a very interesting story and of a wholesome character. Its moral purpose is prominent which is to illustrate the value in reclaiming the erring of a love and sympathy which never fails and never despairs of success. The book is dedicated to "The Beautiful Memory of Phillips Brooks," and there is no doubt as to the original of a certain good bishop who looms large and beneficent in the story. It is a very interesting and wholesome book for boys and girls and it is not otherwise for older folks.

Mary Reed, Missionary to the Lepers; By John Jackson: Fleming H. Revell Company; Toronto. Price 75 cents.

This is a little book of rare interest and value. It ought to be in every Sunday School library in the world. It is as fascinating as a novel, and worth more than a score of learned treatises in demonstrating the divine origin and character of the religion of Jesus Christ. For about eight years now Miss Reed has been superintendent of the Chandag Leper Asylum in India. She is a native of Ohio, and feeling herself called to missionary work, went to India and was there seized by a mysterious illness, which after a time revealed itself as the terrible and incurable leprosy. So soon as Miss Reed knew the nature of her disease, she felt that it was the call of God to her to devote whatever might be given her of life and strength to the lepers of the Chandag district, whose hopeless condition had made a deep impression on her heart. This she did, not only uncomplainingly, but with a strong, cheerful courage, supported by love and faith most inspiring to read of. What life in a leper colony must be to a woman of so refined and sensitive character as Miss Reed is we can only feebly imagine. But she has borne the sufferings and carried the sorrows of these afflicted people upon her heart in a truly Christlike manner. There have been rich rewards. Though suffering with disease herself, Miss Reed has been cheerful and happy in her work, always praising God for his goodness. She has been wonderfully sustained. Though her symptoms and, at times especially, her acute sufferings leave no doubt in her mind that the incurable disease is working in her system, yet the progress of it in her case has been to a great degree arrested, and the wonderful measure of health and strength which she has enjoyed Miss Reed gratefully regards as divinely bestowed. Miss Reed's labors have resulted in the admission, after careful testing of 123 lepers to the church of Christ, and her ministries to the physical and intellectual as well as the spiritual needs of these poor people, have been most abundant and fruitful.

Matthew. The Genesis of the New Testament; Its Purpose, Character and Method. By Henry G. Weston, D. D., President of Crozer Theological Seminary: Fleming H. Revell Company, Chicago. Price 75c.

It is well known that for many years Dr. Weston has devoted special study to the gospel narratives, and whether or not one accepts all his views and conclusions respecting these Scriptures, it cannot but be profitable to study them in the company of an evangelical teacher so scholarly and so devout. The principle by which, as he tells us, he has sought to be guided in this little volume on Matthew is first that the New Testament must be interpreted, as every other book should be, by its purpose, character and method, and secondly that all true method is sympathetic. The New Testament is the believer's book. It is not addressed to critics, cavilers or speculators, and unless the student enters into the spirit of the author he cannot understand what is written. The gospel is love speaking to love. The Bible he regards as the history of salvation, the gospels as the history of salvation as wrought out by our Lord Jesus Christ in his earthly life, death, burial and resurrection. Dr. Weston sees purpose not only in each narrative but in their relations and their arrangement in the Canon, "Each gospel prepares the way for its successor. . . . The gospels are vitally related to one another and the four constitute an organic whole." The gospel of Matthew he regards as the genesis of the New Dispensation. "It shows how the present condition came into being; it justifies the course which God has pursued and is pursuing by constant appeals to the Old Testament, to the divine method in nature, and to the principles which govern human life. . . . The gospel, by necessity of its place and purpose, is the gospel of the Jewish King Rejected. Those three words determine the gospel with all that it contains and all it reveals."