

Praise—Come Thou Fount. Hymn 177.

11.20. Paper, Bolivia, Mrs. H. L. Stark, Toronto.

11.30. Reception of Delegates from Sister Societies.

Letters of Greeting.

Praise—Blest be the tie that binds. Hymn 463.

Prayer—For the spread of the Gospel in every land—Mrs. Hartley, St. Thomas.

12.00. Adjournment.

Afternoon Session, 2 p.m.

2.00. Praise—Come sound His praise abroad.

Hymn 18.

Prayer—That we may be able to go forward in the work in India, Miss A. Hatch, Woodstock.

Minutes of the Morning Session.

Report of the Nominating Committee.

Prayer—For the Holy Spirit's guidance in all the business of the Board.

2.30. Annual Report of Cor. Secretary, Miss Buchan, Toronto.

Prayer—For our Missionaries in India, Mrs. J. G. Goble.

For the native workers, Mrs. A. H. Newman, Toronto.

Praise—What a Friend we have. Hymn 406.

3.15. Conference on the best method of gathering in the offerings. Conducted by Mrs. T. M. Harris, Toronto.

Open Discussion, led by Mrs. C. J. Holman, Toronto.

Praise—More love to Thee, O Christ. Hymn 337.

Prayer—For deeper consecration of the women in the home churches. Mrs. S. Davidson, Paris.

Address—"Duties of a missionary's wife." Mrs. J. A. K. Walker, Pedapuram, India.

Collection—

5.00. Doxology. Adjournment.

Evening Session, 8 p.m.

8.00. Praise—All hail the power of Jesus Name.

Hymn 161.

Reading of Scripture. / Rev. R. R. McKay,
Prayer. Woodstock.

Minutes of Morning Session.

Address. Mrs. J. A. K. Walker, Pedapuram, India.

Collection.

Praise.

Benediction.

WHAT RETRENCHMENT MEANS IN INDIA.

By REV. JACOB CHAMBERLAIN, M.D., D.D., MADAN APPELLE, INDIA.*—Missionary of the Reformed Church in America.

"Self-support among the mission churches" is, it is true, the apostolic plan, and none are working harder toward that end than the missionaries who are pushing the founding of native churches in India. To our joy steady progress is being made. In church after church in India a majority of the members give one-tenth of their income for church support and evangelistic effort. Is that exceeded in happy, Christian America? But even the tenth makes but a small aggregate here, for the average income is so scant. "To the poor is the Gospel preached," has always been the glory of Christianity. Even under the preaching of the Apostles, "not many mighty, not many noble" were called. In India, too, God had chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. But the mighty are not yet confounded. It is still the weak. As yet those of our converts who have any property are, usually, in some way, stripped of it all, on embracing Jesus Christ as their Saviour. In few of our up-country congregations is the average total income of our members equal to seven dollars per month, while in hosts of our small village congregations the total income, per family, is not twenty-five dollars per year. And in these last three famine years often the village catechist, or pastor, himself on a salary from three to six dollars per month for self and family, has had, out of that sum, to keep a pot of congee, or gruel, boiling all the day, to deal out a little to the hungry or starving of his flock, or of inquirers.

What does retrenchment mean in India? I will give you a few composite photographs taken from those working in different missions, and from these safe general conclusions may be drawn, without a tedious array of statistics.

THE DISAPPOINTED HOPE.

"Good news, wife, good news," called Mr. G., as he sprang from his horse on which he had ridden twenty-three miles from a trip in the district. "The people of three hamlets near Kotur have given up their idols, pledged themselves to observe the Sabbath, and to obey all Christian teachings so fast as they are taught them. They promise to send their children to school to learn to read the Bible and Christian books, and I have promised to give them two teachers, for two of the hamlets are near each other, and one school will do for both. They are in hereditary servitude to the head man of the neighboring caste town, and are wretchedly poor, but they seem to be really in earnest. We shall get hold of their children, even if we do not make very intelligent Christians out of the older people. Now if that extra two hundred dollars that I asked for in the new year's appropriation comes, it will just cover the absolutely necessary outlay in these three villages, and in the two that I received last month, eighteen miles south. There is evidently a movement toward Christianity among these

*I have recently met, in conference, missionaries of fourteen different societies, and we have compared notes. We have told one another of our joys, yes, and of our sorrows, and disappointments too, for on many of those missions the ax of retrenchment has fallen, fallen heavily, for from 10 to 50 per cent. of the annual expenditure for work on the field has, in several instances, been cut off, and from the fullness of their hearts, and mine I speak.—J. C.