

the week to about one-eighth of a measure of rice, even in the house of the poorest woman. The rice thus collected and offered is measured before the chief members of the congregation. Although we began it only in October last, yet the sale of rice up to the end of March amounted to over 27s.'

All this reads more strangely still to English ears, but we must remember that rice is the 'staff of life' in India, its chief product, and pretty nearly the sole food of the natives. Of money they have so little that such a thing as an offertory collection of coin every Sunday, as we have it in England, would be impossible. 'Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee,' these poor rice contributors might well say.

Similarly encouraging and exemplary is another mode of collection called 'The collecting pots.' The male members of the congregation pay monthly subscriptions to the Church: whereas women and children get from their pastors collecting pots in which they store up as much as lies within their power. These pots are made of clay, oval in form, with a narrow opening to drop in the coins. Mothers and children make it a rule to put in a pice or two when buying new materials for dresses, &c. The sum collected from the pots that were opened on Easter day amounted to over 3l. in the smallest copper coins.

An interesting account of a poor woman is given in the report as follows: 'When we distributed the pots, a poor widow, who was in Vellore in search of some work, happened to attend the service, and she also took a pot with others. Although she had to leave this for another place about two miles distant, yet she did not forget us and God's portion which she agreed to give Him out of her earnings. And so, when Easter was approaching, she remembered that the pots would be collected during Easter, and sent us a money order for 6s., asking us to pray to God to accept her poor collection, though it may be the least of all collections received from her Christian sisters.'

The same spirit, you see, animates Christian people all over the world. What good things they have they wish to share among their brethren. One cannot be a Christian and sit down contentedly to do nothing for the poor—nothing for God. A selfish Christian is an impossibility. Christ sacrificed Himself for men, and we, His followers, must sacrifice

something belonging to us for the good of others—our money, our time, our care, it may be—or we are no Christians.

Let us all remember this, and then ask ourselves, What are we giving to our Lord? What are we giving to the poor?

THE CHURCH EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR JOURNAL.

AGAIN we have to wish our readers a Happy New Year. As each copy of our little magazine, to the number of nearly 400,000, carries this wish to its readers, what different thoughts it suggests!

Young and old, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, English and foreign, joyous and sad, how various are your ideas of happiness; and yet we have but one wish for all. Wherever you are in the course of your journey through life, may it be a heavenward journey! As you begin the new year may you place before yourself that day which has no ending, and purpose on every day of this year to do that, and that only, which you will wish you had done when you see it in the light of the Eternal Day.

To those of you who are young travellers on the upward journey, and inclined to be a little alarmed by its difficulties and length, we say Heaven must be won step by step in watchful and careful walking; your Father in Heaven will give you strength for one step at a time. An old woman once said to a little child at her needlework, who was looking in dismay all down the long length of what seemed to her an endless white seam, 'If you look at the whole of your seam you will never get it sewn; look only at the little bit between your thumb and finger.' There is very good teaching in these humble words for those to whom good things seem hard, and who are sometimes tempted to remain on a low level, because to climb to a higher one seems to demand impossibilities.

It is pleasant to begin our new year's journal with thanks. The Church of British Guiana, Potaro River Mission, makes grateful acknowledgment of help received from readers of the BANNER OF FAITH.

The people in the vast district of the Upper Potaro and the neighbouring savannahs are most anxious to be placed under Christian instruction. They have a strong conviction that Christianity can supply their souls' needs, which are unsatisfied by their old superstitions.