

The Jerusalem and Edinburgh Conferences Compared.

The first Christian missionary conference was the Council of Jerusalem; the last was at Edinburgh. What a contrast! Then, a handful of believers from a few cities met obscurely in a corner of the Roman Empire; now 1,200 delegates and as many more visitors came from the ends of the earth, and their deliberations were telegraphed to eager readers in all lands. Then, the admission of Gentile converts was conceded only after a heated debate; now, the only question is one of ways and means for speedily fulfilling the Church's primary duty of evangelizing the Gentiles. The Council of Jerusalem was attended by Hebrew delegates only; the Conference at Edinburgh by men and women of a score of nations and of all the great races. At Jerusalem the only missionary experts were Paul and Barnabas; at Edinburgh practically every one was in some sense an expert; not only missionaries from the firing line, but the secretaries and directors at the home base; not only Westerners, but men of Japan, India, Korea, China, and Africa.—Galen M. Fisher, of Tokyo, in "The Student World."

A TRIP ON COLAIR LAKE.

The following letter was written by Miss Robertson for the "Link" and the "Western Outlook":

Dear Friends,—In a "Geography of the Madras Presidency," which I happen to have by me, I find the following statement: "India has only a few small lakes. The chief fresh water lake is: Colair, between the Godavari and the Krishna." As I have just had the pleasure of a tour of twelve days on this lake, and am at present sitting comfortably in the house-boat, "Glad Tidings," it has occurred to me that you might be interested in a few remarks about this "chief fresh water lake" of India. It is, in many respects, a remarkable body of water, being simply an immense marsh, narrowing down in the hot season, until nothing but mud remains in the lowest parts, and, in the rainy season, widening, and deepening in proportion to the rainfall, into a huge sheet of water. The native people tell us that at present the circumference of the lake, including the

lines in and out around all bays, peninsulas, etc., would measure over ninety miles. Numbers of villages are located here and there about this lake, built for the sake of safety on the highest spots available. Many of these villages, or more properly speaking, hamlets, become at times like this, mere islands, the queer little, round, mud-walled and grass-roofed houses standing huddled together like a group of frightened children, afraid of having their toes wet.

In some of these hamlets are caste people, most of these being fishermen. The fishermen are divided into various castes, and most of these on the lake belong to the class who always use traps, and never nets or hooks. The traps are "homemade," as are all the implements in every trade in retired sections of India, and these traps are of every size and shape and most ingeniously designed. Some are dropped down in the water with nothing to mark their whereabouts but a small floater (and the instinct of the owner), while the larger ones are frequently tied in a long line across the arm of the lake. Several times in our progress we have had to take a few of these out of our way to allow the boat to pass.

In addition to fishing, both the caste and non-caste people cultivate the land. The soil in this district is very fertile, and the land, all that remains reasonably above water, produces excellent crops of rice, which, of course, grows only in low-lying, wet grounds. The land, in the bed of the lake is let out by government for cultivation in the dry season, at rupees two and a half or about eighty-three cents, per acre per season, and produces very good "dry crops."

As may be supposed, the water of this lake is nowhere very deep. The boat is propelled by four men with long bamboo poles, two on a side. The poles go down in the water with a splash and stick fast in the mud, and then patter, patter, patter go the feet of the coolies, until the stern of the boat walks up to them, when they all run forward and repeat the operation. They always work best to the accompaniment of one of their many songs, which they sing responsively and with great zest.

As I look out now, the whole place is as flat as the prairie, and much re-