

them, they will find ready listeners. Many of our young folks want to commence their service by doing great things, and, therefore, do nothing at all; let none of my readers become the victims of such an unreasonable ambition. He who is willing to teach infants or to give away tracts, and so to begin at the beginning, is far more likely to be useful than the youth who is full of affectations, and sleeps in a white necktie who is aspiring to the ministry, and is touching up certain superior manuscripts, which he is hoping ere long to read from the pastor's pulpit. He who talks upon plain Gospel themes in a farmer's kitchen, and is able to interest the carter's boy and the dairymaid, has more of the minister in him, than the prim little man who keeps prating about being cultured, and means by that — being taught to use words which nobody can understand. To make the very poorest listen with pleasure and profit is in itself an achievement; and beyond this, it is the best possible promise and preparation for an influential ministry. Let our younger brethren go in for cottage preaching and plenty of it. If there is no Lay Preachers' Association, let them work by themselves. The expense is not very great for rent, candles and a few forms; many a young man's own pocket money would cover it all. No isolated group of houses should be left without its preaching room, no hamlet without its evening service. This is the lesson of the thatched cottage at Teversham.

Spurgeon for many years and with acknowledged right, held the title of 'Prince of Preachers,' and to the present time the Church has not found his peer. Great as a preacher, he was greater as a man. Nevertheless, while it is true that from time to time there have been published fragmentary records of portions of his career, it has been left for his faithful wife and his private secretary to prepare from his own notes, diary, letters and records, the work which shall stand as the true history of this great life. At odd moments, during a busy life, he prepared chapter after chapter of his autobiography, and now it is offered to the world as the product of hand and heart.

Spurgeon sought to hide self in his desire to exalt his Master, but in his autobiography he necessarily emerges from personal obscurity, and we see the man and learn from him some of the secrets of his wonderful power.

The work is of peculiar importance to the ministry—every incident in the life is made to form the basis of teaching some lesson of pertinent application, warning, or exhortation. Every page suggests a sermon or furnishes thought for a great theme, or illumines a truth with a timely picture.—N.Y. 'Observer.'

The Free Reading Room Cocanada.

Cocanada, India, 17-4-'01.

Nothing could be more encouraging to me than the fine response by so wide a circle of friends to the kindly appeal made through the 'Northern Messenger' and other papers on behalf of the little reading room at the gate of the mission compound. Scan this list below and tell me if you do not consider it an attractive and powerful factor in the unleavened life of the educated Hinduism of this town and a very helpful element in the development of the handful of English-speaking native Christians who are enjoying its benefits.

English papers and magazines:—Daily—The Madras 'Mail,' This paper is the leading English paper in south India, and

has a tri-weekly and weekly edition as well. The subscription is twelve dollars a year. I pay for it myself with articles written from this place as their correspondent. It is essential to the success of the little Telugu weekly paper called the 'Ravi,' which I edit and publish.

Weekly from India.—The Bombay 'Guardian,' This is one of the very best religious papers published, and is taken by a number of people in England and America. The 'East Coast News,' an insignificant little paper, published by the principal of a mission school in the next district. The Ganjam 'News,' a paper published in the district where most of our maritime workers' effort is put forth, and that at times is not very friendly to it. The paper is edited by a Hindu High School teacher at Parlakimedi. It is very poorly printed and the contents represent the average bombastic Johnsonian English of the high school boy and native graduate. Its tone is pure. 'The Epiphany,' a little sheet published by a High Church brotherhood in Calcutta and sent out free. It is filled with religious controversy and is doing good work in the placing of some of the outer walls of the Christian faith in the land.

Monthly.—'The White Ribbon,' a paper published in Calcutta, and doing only such good work as the W.C.T.U. is noted for the world over. 'The Young Men of India,' and its supplement 'The Inquirer,' are published by the Y.M.C.A. of Madras, and are of interest to the local Y.M.C.A. and college men. 'The Harvest Field,' one of the very best missionary papers, and alive with topics for the missionary, but not so good for the average native reader.

Foreign.—Weekly—'The Messenger' and 'Visitor,' the organ of the Maritime Baptists; 'The Ram's Horn,' sent by Mr. Loudon, no paper is more attractive; 'The Youths' Companion,' which is just commencing to come regularly from the publishers. My sub-editor in the little Telugu weekly says that it is full of fine matter for translation and that he is utilizing its contents for the benefit of our readers. I am very grateful to the unknown donor of the 'Youths' Companion,' 'The Illustrated London News,' sent out by father, and the 'British Weekly,' sent by Mrs. Claxton, of Montreal. My wife sends the 'World Wide.'

Monthly.—'The Ladies Home Journal,' which is kindly lent by Mrs. Davis, of Ramachandrapuram, and the pure reading in which is a counter attraction to the cheap and hurtful sentiment of the low works of fiction that have such a general circulation amongst the educated natives. 'The Christian Scotsman,' is sent me by the kindness of its sturdy editor, the Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Glasgow, and lastly the 'Watchword' and 'Truth,' of Boston sent me for years by the late lamented Dr. Kellock, of Perth, but now not paid for for two years, or since his death.

This makes a list of 18 in all. There are a few other papers that will be of great service in this literary campaign and which I am asking for. They are 'The Sunday at Home,' 'The Leisure Hour,' 'The Sunday Magazine,' 'Good Words,' if still published, 'The Quiver,' 'The Boys' Own Paper,' 'St. Nicholas,' 'The Literary Digest,' 'The Christian Herald,' 'Chambers's Journal,' and one or two of the high-class literary magazines, such as 'The Century,' and 'Harpers.' There are about 11 Telugu papers that come in exchange for the 'Ravi.' Most of these are not designed to be the help that good papers from the home land are. They are not sought for as the English papers from the home land are. They are not

sought for as the English papers are and have not anything like their influence.

The reading room could not be better situated than it is. The Pithapur Raja's college with 500 boys and young men in attendance and all studying English, is not a stone's throw away. There are government offices on four sides of the place, which is right in the heart of the town. When a bundle of papers comes such as the 'Northern Messenger,' or a lot of Sunday papers, I send them down to the store and tell Raghavayya, the young man in charge, to give one to each customer who makes a purchase so that the paper helps sell a good book and goes along with it. If we gave them away to all who came and asked for them the petty shop keepers might be sending up for them to be used as wrapping papers. So we have to safeguard them. Last week I put three new chairs into the reading room and the place will now be much more attractive and comfortable. The circulating library has not yet been opened.

Some of the bundles of papers come with little Sunday-school cards inside. These I use as prizes in the day schools under my care. They are very eagerly taken by the little ones, and put up in prominent places in their houses.

Every fall about the first of October, my brother sends me out a shipment of stuff, and has promised to send any bundles of Sunday-school picture rolls for use in our Bible work or any good books for the library. I am asking father to gather them and send them on to my brother. His address is A. J. Laflamme, Collector of Customs, Morrisburg, Ont. He will acknowledge and forward any papers and books that are too heavy for the post, and that will keep just as well till later.

Yours in the holy war,

H. F. LAFLAMME.

A Wise Dog.

A physician residing in New Hope, N. J., has a favorite dog, which usually meets his master at the railway. On a recent occasion the doctor did not find him at the station. On reaching his house the doctor found the dog awaiting him on the porch with another dog. As the doctor passed into the house his own dog remained outside, as well-bred dogs are taught to do. But the strange dog pushed in and overwhelmed the doctor with caresses. When he took a chair the dog climbed with his breast upon the doctor's knee, and one paw affectionately upon his shoulder. This very demonstrative behavior led to investigation, and upon examining the other paw a pin was found sticking in the flesh. It was, of course, extracted. It could not be said in this case that the doctor's fee was 'no great shakes,' for the vibrations of the tail of the patient, 'discharged cured,' were something to wonder at, as he trotted out. It is not remarkable or uncommon that a dog should, when in pain, appeal for help. But that a physician's dog should bring his master a subject for treatment, certainly is a remarkable proof of animal sagacity.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Find-the-Place Almanac

TEXTS IN THE PSALMS.

Aug. 4, Sun.—Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Aug. 5, Mon.—They trusted in thee and were not confounded.

Aug. 6, Tues.—All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn unto the Lord.

Aug. 7, Wed.—I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.

Aug. 8, Thur.—The earth is the Lord's.

Aug. 9, Fri.—Lead me in thy truth and teach me.

Aug. 10, Sat.—The meek will he guide in judgment.