

Canadian Missionary Link

XLVI

WHITBY, MARCH, 1924

No. 7

Mrs. George Churchill, M.A.

We are glad to give our readers this month a picture of Mrs. Churchill, one of our pioneer missionaries who is still with us. Among the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces Mrs. Churchill's name has been a household word for fifty years. In Ontario she became well known a few years ago as the author of "Letters From My Home in India," which was sold in large numbers among our Circles.

Mrs. Churchill, whose maiden name was Matilda Faulkner, was born in Nova Scotia. She graduated at the Truro Normal School and was a High School teacher before going to India. In preparation for her work she also took some medical training in a hospital in the United States.

She was one of the "Serving Seven" who were sent to Siam by the Maritime Baptists in 1873. In 1875 these seven went to India to co-operate with Ontario Baptists in their Mission to the Telugus, and in 1878 the Bobbili field was assigned to Mr. and Mrs. Churchill. There they did heroic, able and fruitful pioneer work. Mrs. Churchill founded and for a long time superintended the Caste Girls' School and the Girls' Boarding-School at Bobbili.

After Mr. Churchill's death in 1908 she, with her daughter's help, carried on the work for six and a half years. In 1914 they came home on furlough, and Mrs. Churchill's friends thought she had earned the right to permanent rest in the home land. Not so thought she. Her heart was set on another term in India and in 1916, when seventy-six years old, she took the long journey back to Bobbili. There "up to the beginning of 1921, when she left for Canada accompanied by her daughter, she devoted herself with indefatigable zeal to the work of evangelism on the Bobbili field. The Victrola was a wonderful help in attracting the crowds

and each year about 150 preaching services were held, many thousands of Gospels sold and every year 15,000 or 20,000 people had the message of eternal life preached to them in their own villages."

Several months before leaving India for the last time Mrs. Churchill celebrated her eightieth birthday. A delightful account of this celebration was given in the Link of March, 1921.

Beacon Lights says of this pioneer Missionary: "A pioneer of outstanding ability, Mrs. Churchill has been great in faith and constant in prayer, abundant in labors, generous in her gifts, and unreserved in her devotion to India. After almost fifty years of service she now lives with her daughter, Mrs. H. E. Stillwell, in Toronto.

Sad News From Bolivia

The Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board is in receipt of an unusually distressing message in two cablegrams from Rev. H. E. Wintemute, La Paz, Bolivia. The first, received at noon on Feb. 1, read: "Vickerson critically ill. Doctors give no hope. Pray." The second, which was received on the morning of Feb. 2, bore out the fears of the doctors and read: "Vickerson died Feb. 1st, Peritonitis." As the Board had not had the slightest hint of any indisposition on the part of Mr. Vickerson, the news has come as a very sorrowful surprise.

Mr. L. N. Vickerson, whose home is at Vernon River, Prince Edward Island, had completed two years of the agricultural course at the Truro Experimental Farm, Nova Scotia, and had finished the course at the Ontario Agricultural College, in May last. In September he married Miss Ruth Zieman, the daughter of well-known members of the First Baptist Church, Guelph, and a very devoted and capable church worker. On Sept. 29 they,