THE CEYLON CHURCH MISSIONARY GLEANER.

JULY, 1908.

Address for Ceylon Conference, January 8th, 1908.

2 Cor. vi. 16.

"I will dwell in them and walk in them."

Deut. vi. 9—"Take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently."

In the first of these inspired words we have one of the "exceeding great and precious promises of "the faithful God who keepeth covenant and promise"—One made originally on a very special occasion Ex. 29. 45. (the dedication of Aaron and his sons) to God's people Israel, but applied to believers in every age by St. Paul's quotation of them when writing to the Corinthians.

It is a promise which we can never read or hear without being constrained to pray David's prayer.

"Remember this word to Thy servant upon which Thou hast caused me to hope."

It brings to us exactly what we need, for it reminds us that as we go forth to daily duties we are "not alone, because the Father is with us" and therefore, that through Him, we are equal to any emergency, because we have with us every hour and moment, one who is almighty and His strength is "made perfect in our weakness."

But while God's promise is so reassuring—while it exactly meets our need—we must not lose sight of the fact that it is the state of our own spirit that will have much to do with the promise being fulfilled to us or not.

We must take care, therefore, to keep the avenues of the soul perpetually open—we must see to it that not one of the doors of the heart is locked—because this can so easily come about, and does alas! so often. By way of illustration, we can imagine the case of the entrance gates of some fair demesne being—through which it is one of the greatest hindrances this would be, and how great the owner's disappointment—not to say displeasure.

But, as a matter of fact is not the parallel but too often found spiritually? and it cannot be otherwise than disastrous in its consequences. We may be ever so full of faith in the promises of God and in His purposes of love towards ourselves—we may be thanking Him daily that He condescends to make our poor hearts His dwelling-place:—and yet, at the same time, we may be putting obstacles in the way of His fulfilling His gracious purposes, and may consequently, be impoverished when we might be rich. Let us look more closely into the matter, for it is one of the greatest importance.

To give instances. Not to mention unbelief which has become an effectual barrier; take 1st—a ruffled spirit —the opposite of "a meek and quiet" one, which is in the sight of God of great price. "Do we need any argument to convince us that this will stand much in the way of God's working in us? While thus perturbed and restless we shall not be in a position to hear the "still small voice" of the Great Teacher"—who is the Author, not of confusion but of peace (1 Cor. xiv. 33.) and therefore shall not be fully under His guidance.

Or take, 2nd Neglect—a careless and unwatchful walk—too much conformity to the world: too little time devoted to the study of God's Word and to prayer—What must result from this but a barrenness of soul; loss of a sense of God's presence, and therefore a lack both of spiritual joy and spiritual power, as well as slowness to discern what is God's will concerning us.

3. Selfishness—whether manifested by indifference, and self-indulgence, or by a looking at our own things only, or too much, instead of looking at the things of others also. An unwillingness to give up our own wishes and inclinations out of consideration for another's wishes and feelings, forgetting that "Christ pleased not Himself."

4. Self-seeking—the desire to be first: the love of popularity, often endangering our position as consistent followers of Christ by leading us into some compromise with the world.

5. Pride and self-sufficiency—a disposition which, before we are aware of it, may so easily find a place in our hearts, but which is so abominable in the sight of God—Who promises to dwell with him who is of a "poor" and contrite spirit. How totally contrary this to the beautiful spirit of John the Baptist, who rejoiced when his own disciples left him to follow His Master and who could say, from the bottom of his heart, "He must increase, but I must decrease."—again (6.) A narrow and uncharitable view of the work of others who may not see eye to eye with us, but may yet be doing God's work in another way. Exemplified (Num. xii. 28.) by Joshua's request to Moses, when Eldad and Medad were prophesying in the camp. "My Lord Moses, forbid them or again, by Christ's disciples when they said to him—"Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name and we forbade him." &c.

Shall we not do well to remember that He says of such as he said to James and John on another occasion (Luke ix. 55)—"ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of."

If we seek the indwelling of the Holy Spirit shall we not rather pray that our's may be the mind of St. Paul, When he wrote (Phil. i. 15, 17.) "Notwithstanding every way Christ is preached &c."

Wherever any of these dispositions are existing there will be to say the least—some corner of the heart closed against its rightful owner, because some chamber occupied by sin.

How jealous then, must not be the watch that we keep over ourselves! How diligently must we not keep our souls! How earnestly must we not adopt David's prayer (Ps. 51. 10. R. V. Margin) "Renew a steadfast spirit in the inward parts." And therefore a lack of spiritual joy and power, as well as slowness to discern what is God's will concerning us.

How much do we not need to realise that failure to take heed to our spirit, must mean hindrance to God's work both in and through us, and a consequent diminution of that blessing from above which will make us "fruitful in every good word and work."

Let us say "Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strainings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace!"

Then will God's promise (Deut. iv. 9) be fulfilled in us.
Kegalle— "Prize Giving Day."

"Prize giving day" was a Red Letter day for all the school children of Kegalle.

For days before, there had been a spirit of suppressed excitement amongst the children, and after school hours (and sometimes up to quite late in the evening) the sound of weird chanting and singing and reciting, had been wafted up to the Mission Bungalow. This however had to be borne in cheerful silence and apparent unconsciousness of the fact of its existence, for the programme of proceedings was supposed to be a dead secret until the actual day arrived.

The evening before and early next morning masters and boys were hard at work decorating both the school building itself and also the path leading to it from the high road. The little girls met for a final rehearsal and then hurried off home for the most important and lengthy business of donning their best attire, oiling their hair, and generally pulling and patting themselves into order.

Even the sun seemed to enter into the spirit of things, and though we had had heavy rain each afternoon for weeks before, on this day, he allowed never a cloud to obscure his face but smiled down cheerily on the children the whole day long, and surely he was amply repaid by the reflected sunshine he saw on their faces.

Punctually at 4.30, all were in their places and the A. G. A. (Mr. M. Stevenson) took the chair.

Mrs. Sueter, wife of the District Judge, had kindly consented to give away the prizes, and she was met at the door by a wee maiden, resplendent in mauve pinafore and ribbons, who presented her with a bouquet of white flowers.

The Rev. W. G. Shorten, as Manager of the School, opened with a short prayer, and then the Head Master (Mr. E. Perera) was called upon to read his report for the last year. Several leading members of the congregation, and other friends were present, and all followed the reading of this report with interest, and expressed their hearty congratulations at the close of the most encouraging account the master was able to give of the school and its work.

In spite of the opposition Buddhist School started during the year the attendance has kept up wonderfully well, 205 children being on the roll, with an average daily attendance of 143. Many boys who left to attend the Buddhist School have now returned to us again. At the last Government Examination 125 children were presented, out of which number only 3 failed, and the grant gained was Rs. 950.

For some years now the school has been self-supporting, owing to the high grant gained, and right royally does the master uphold the dignity of his position. Not only is he looked up to and respected by all his boys while in the school, but long after they have left and started work on their own account his influence still reaches and holds them. Indeed throughout the whole neighbourhood he is looked up to and respected by rich and poor alike.

At the close of his report Mr. J. P. Herat was called upon to address the children.

One of the oldest members of the congregation, many a child has he watched grow up from childhood to manhood, and to-day he earnestly entreated them to make the most of their opportunities, and not to think lightly of their privileges in being able to attend such a school, as was not known in his day. He urged them to attend regularly and learn all they could, for they would find it would stand them in good stead one day. A man with a good education behind him was well equipped for the struggle in life which awaited him and which he must face if he meant to succeed and make his mark.

M. F. C. Appelesz spoke next. Like Mr. Herat, he, too, is a well known figure in Kegalle and is always keenly interested in all that concerns the development of the place, and especially so as regards the children. He spoke of man as being a "bundle of habits," which habits swayed and indeed made up his whole life. And now in their young days was the time to form and establish those habits. A habit of swift obedience, of steadily applying themselves to their work and mastering that work, and a determination to go on and succeed. If day by day those were practised, then when they had to make their own way in the world, their characters would be found set in a good mould and their minds and abilities well fitted to take up whatever work they had set themselves to do and they would be better able to do it to their own and others' satisfaction. These speeches were followed by one by the Rev. W. G. Shorten who touched on the difficulties and hindrances to the gaining of that success spoken of by Mr. Herat and Mr. Appelesz.

These difficulties were sure to come and every boy should seek to so strengthen himself that he might meet and overcome them. And school was the place where they might just learn to overcome them. The whole training, both physical and mental, was a discipline to this end.

Above all, now was the time, and here was the place to learn of the power of God to help and keep them. After all, that was the one great object of the school. No boy was forced to become a Christian, it was left to his own free will, but each one was taught about the great God and given the opportunity and chance to choose the right, if he would, and that he should do so, was the desire and prayer of both the speaker, and the master and of all his true friends and well wishers.

All this time the children were very quiet and attentive in spite of the fact that the prizes were on view on the table before them. And still they had a little longer to wait while the girls sang several songs, and a picked number of boys gave an excellent exhibition of Drill.

Then, when all were in their places again, the greatest of all moments arrived and Mrs. Sueter rose and gave away the prizes, each girl and boy coming up to the table to receive them and making a low bow before turning away.

The pile of prizes looked very formidable at first but was all too quickly disposed of, of, at least to the minds of the children. This over, the chairman addressed the children, his speech being interpreted by Mudaliyar C. R. P. Jayawardane.

Mr. Stevenson spoke on the importance of Self-control and Self-reliance, without which no one is likely to, nor deserves to get on in the world. Many a terrible crime had come before him in Court, and
when investigated all proved due to one moment's loss of self-control, a sudden anger, a blow, and the deed was done, and the punishment must follow.

In speaking of self-reliance, Mr. Stevenson mentioned how often a man would come to apply for a post under government, not relying on his own merits at all, but altogether on the merits of his father, his grandfather or some still more distant relative. No matter how incompetent he himself might be his great uncle had been a clever and able man in the Kachee, and therefore of course a similar valuable possession of God, in its possession of Mr. Handy.

These were not the men however that the English Government wanted. They wanted men who had earned a character and reputation for themselves, and if this were to be done, now was the time to begin, for habits and character were not formed in a day.

The custom of writing anonymous petitions, was most strongly condemned. A man who stooped to such mean, underhand and contemptible methods was not fit to be even mentioned in respectable society, and he urged the boys to have nothing to do with such a man.

He closed by congratulating the manager and master and all concerned in the working of the school, and thanked them for giving him the really great pleasure of presiding on that happy occasion. The head master then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Suter, the Chairman and those present, and a small boy came forward and lifted up his voice in a special song of thanks-giving to Mrs. Suter.

By this time it was almost dark, and after a short interval during which the school was re-arranged, a Magic Lantern Lecture was held, the slides being chiefly on the Life of Christ. Absolute stillness reigned, while Mr. C. B. Perera explained the pictures, and one little fellow was heard to give a great sob, as Dore's representation of the crucifixion was shown on the sheet.

By 8 o'clock all was over, and the children on their way home. Tongues were loosed at last, and the events of the day discussed and the prizes received shown to groups of admiring and envious relatives and friends who had not had the good fortune to be present.

Thus ended a day which will not soon be forgotten by the children of Kegalle.

Charles Chelliah Handy.
A TRIBUTE.

It is to be hoped that others who had the privilege of knowing the Rev. C. C. Handy for some years will come forward to write a fuller sketch of his life than is possible to one who was only associated with him for about a year at St. John's College, Jaffna.

Owing to the frailty of western human nature in the tropics it is the common experience of educational and other institutions in the mission field to have a change of Principal or Manager every few years. Under these circumstances the true continuity of a school is largely preserved in the person of its headmaster. In this respect St. John's College has been blessed in the provision of God, in its possession of Mr. Handy.

The tradition in Ceylon has been for the Vice-Principal of Trinity College, Kandy, to become Principal of St. John's College, Jaffna.

The change from Kandy, the mountain capital, to Jaffna, the northern capital, is in itself considerable and any one to whose lot such a change fell was fortunate in having Mr. Handy for a counsellor. He had first of all the love for the College so essential in itself: he knew its masters and boys and traditions; and some of the latter he had sufficient wideness of view to assist in setting aside. He was absolutely loyal, and in the working out and enforcing of some strenuous aim he exhibited quiet tact that was as oil on waters sometimes troubled. The idea of Mr. Handy as ruffled or out of temper is very nearly unthinkable. When the collapse of the College hall roof on that eventful morning in 1889 strained our organization and resources to the very utmost, coolly and collectedly he rose to the occasion. With a natural gift for teaching he was always cheerfully ready to take up extra work due to the absence of a teacher or other causes and always in a spirit of devotion to duty.

Turning to the more directly spiritual side of his work his addresses at morning prayers were capital, manly straight-forward utterances, expressed in terse and vigorous English. His work at Christ Church was valuable within the sacred edifice itself and without amongst the parishioners to whom he proved himself a zealous, helpful and sympathetic parish clergyman.

Alike in the College and in the parish he displayed that sterling Christian worth which will make fragrant for years to come in the minds and hearts of many the memory of Charles Chelliah Handy.

R. W. R.

Nugegoda.

The annual meeting of the above parish was held on June 6th last in Nugegoda Church. The chair was taken by Dr. Heynsberg. A very encouraging report was read by the Rev. G. S. Amarasekara and addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. Mendis, Vicar of Moratuwa and the Rev. M. H. Perera.

A sale of work followed which was opened with a few suitable words by Mrs. Ryde.

In Memoriam.

Alfred Bartholomeus Wirasingha Abayaratne, the third son of the late Muhandiram Abayaratne, after a brief illness died on the 17th June, and his remains were laid to rest at St. John's Cemetery on the following day, in the midst of a large assembly of relatives and friends. The Rev. G. S. Amarasekara officiated assisted by the Revs. R. W. Ryde and A. B. W. Jayasekara. He did excellent service to Government as a Police Officer, being conscientious and hard-working and did his duty well.

He was a devoted Christian and participated in the work of his own Church and was at one time, a warden and also represented his Church at the Synod. He had a brilliant career before him which was cut short in his 43rd year. He leaves behind a wife and four children, with whom much sympathy is felt.

A.
Our Annual Sale of Work.

It is not too soon to remind our readers about this Annual Sale, on the results of which so much missionary work in various parts of the Island depends for support. It has been arranged by the Ladies' Committee of the Ceylon Association of the C.M.S. that it shall be held (D.V.) as usual in the Public Hall on Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th September. Notices are already being received of the despatch of the usual consignment of articles for the various stalls from England and it is hoped that a number of ladies are preparing needle-work &c. as in past years as part of the Ceylon contribution. By the kind permission of Mrs. F. M. Mackwood the Working Party is being held at Yalta and Mrs. Mackwood also will be happy to take charge of any articles that may be sent to her for the Sale.

A First Missionary Tour.

The first Missionary journey of one like myself with only a very imperfect knowledge of the language must necessarily be one of learning as well as trying to teach; and while it opens one's eyes to the interest and greatness of the work, it also acts as a spur urging me on as fast as may be towards the acquirement of a working knowledge of Tamil. I visited three churches on three successive Sundays at Balangoda, Rakwana and in the Morawak Korale, and had the privilege of preaching to Tamil congregations in each. The attendance at the first two places was poor owing to its being the busy season, many of the coolies having to work on the Sundays; but in the Morawak Korale the attendance was really good. There most of the Christian coolies prefer the keeping of God's day holy to worldly gain.

On week days I did not follow the usual custom of preaching to coolies at muster, but went to different sets of lines and engaged in conversation with some one to the best of my ability, and then tried to begin a Gospel talk. At first it was difficult to engage the full attention of the listeners; but after a time it occurred to me that it would be best to read a Gospel story to them and interperse a few remarks. They seemed to appreciate the parables in St. Luke xv, and also were interested in the Gospel application of the story of the serpent in the wilderness. At first I did not make much attempt at a sustained address, but in one set of lines so many had gathered round, looking expectant, that there seemed no alternative but to make a beginning and go on as long and as clearly as possible. If I understood the language better, it might be possible to give some idea of the attitude of the people's minds towards the Gospel message, but one thing is certain: they seem anxious to hear, many listening patiently until the end.

G. T. W.

Cotta.

The monthly gathering of the Cotta-Mirihana Gleaners' Union took place on Saturday the 18th June at 4 p.m. in the Church. There were about 50 present and the Rev. D. L. Welikala of Talangama made a most interesting speech on how mission work was first started in Liyanwela and how it is being carried on now. It is wonderful to notice the marvellous change in Liyanwela at the present day, compared to what it was 32 years ago and how in spite of the many hinderances brought on by the evil one, God's work continues to expand and improve. The Rev. G. B. Perera who was in the chair offered a few suitable remarks and the proceedings were brought to a close with prayer by the Rev. J. Goonesekera of the Baptist Mission. A sum of Rs 2/19 was collected at the meeting towards the Cotta Evangelistic Fund.

The teachers and pupils of the school in the mission compound had the great privilege of hearing Mr. G. S. Eddy of India on Monday the 22nd instant. He spoke (from Romans x. 9) on believing, confessing and being saved. The illustrations and anecdotes he brought out in his address were very helpful. The Lord blessed his words a great deal and at the close of his address several of the school children expressed their desire to believe, confess and be saved, with whom he had a further talk.

M. A. P.

An Appeal.

St. Mary's Church, Copay.

During the cyclone in the year 1884 the greater part of the Tower of St. Mary's Church Copay was blown down. For 20 years no effort was made to rebuild it, but when the Rev. A. Mathias, who had already built a beautiful Church in Vavonia was appointed to the parish in 1904 he immediately began to prepare materials for building and to collect money. The foundation, and 18 feet of the old tower being good were retained. The Tower has already reached the height of 36 feet and is built of well-dressed coral stone. About 18 feet remain to be built. Rs. 594.41 have been subscribed and Rs. 609 spent up to the present. To complete the Tower building about Rs. 300 are needed and another Rs. 100 to plaster the lower part of the Tower and the front wall of the church to make the whole uniform.

The Bishop was greatly pleased when he saw the efforts which Mr. Mathias was making and the splendid work which was being done and unasked sent a subscription.

We are anxious to complete this work at once but have no money to go on with, who will help us? Subscriptions may be sent to the Rev. A. Mathias Copay, Jaffna, or to the Rev. W. J. Hanan, Nellore, Jaffna.

Latest Notes.

We hear that Mr. and Mrs. Frazer are leaving England for Ceylon at the end of October. With them we expect Messrs. Campbell, Saunders and Gibson, who will be attached to Trinity College in connection with Mr. Frazer's schemes of extension.

We also hear that we may expect in the autumn a new Lady Missionary Miss Hargrove and probably two other ladies, both with educational qualifications.

The Rev. S. M. Simmons writes that he hopes to reach Ceylon about December 14th, but we trust he may be able to come somewhat earlier.

The Rev. A. M. Walmesley hopes to resume his duties as Master of Method at Trinity College on August 1st.