Assam Baptist Missionary Conference.

1904-1905.

EIGHTH SESSION.
MINUTES OF THE

EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE

ASSAM MISSION

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY

UNION

HELD IN

GAUHATI, ASSAM.

DECEMBER 24, 1904, TO JANUARY 1, 1905.

CALCUTTA:

BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, 41, LOWER CIRCULAR ROAD.

1905.
Conference Directory.

Rev. S. A. D. Boggs, President and Corresponding Secretary
Rev. L. W. B. Jackman, Clerk.
Rev. W. C. Mason, Associate Clerk.
Rev. P. H. Moore, Treasurer.

Committees.

Reference.
Rev. E. G. Phillips, Chairman.
Rev. P. H. Moore.
Rev. A. E. Stephen.
Rev. E. W. Clark, D.D.
Rev. S. A. D. Boggs.

Property.
Rev. P. H. Moore.
Rev. S. A. D. Boggs.
Rev. W. Dring.

Language Examinations.

For Examinations in Assamese, Rev. P. H. Moore.

" " " Garo, Rev. E. G. Phillips.
" " " Hindi, Rev. C. E. Petrick.
" " " Mikir, Rev. P. E. Moore.
" " " Ao Naga, Rev. W. F. Dowd.
" " " Angami Naga, Rev. S. W. Rivenburg.
" " " Patia, Rangdania Rabha and Bengali, Rev. A. E. Stepuen.
" " " Manipuri and Tangkhul Naga, Rev. W. Pettingrew.

Program for Next Conference.

Rev. W. C. Mason.
Miss Anna E. Long.

Rev. L. W. B. Jackman.
Rev. P. E. Moore.
Mrs. J. M. Carvell.

Statistician.
Miss Anna E. Long.

Obituary.
Miss E. C. Bond.

Librarian.
Mrs. A. J. Tuttle.
LIST OF MISSIONARIES.

Missionaries Present.

Rev. and Mrs. S. A. D. Boggs, Gauhati.
Miss Ella C. Bond, Tura.
Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Carvell, Tika.
Dr. and Mrs. G. G. Crozier, Tura.
Rev. H. B. Dickson, Impur.
Rev. and Mrs. W. Dring, Tura.
Rev. and Mrs. L. W. B. Jackman, Gauhati.
Miss Anna Long, Nowgong.
Rev. and Mrs. P. E. Moore, Tika.
Rev. and Mrs. P. H. Moore, Nowgong.

Rev. M. C. Mason, Tura.
Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Mason, Tura.
Rev. C. E. Petrick, Sibsagar.
Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Perrine, Impur.
Rev. and Mrs. E. G. Phillips, Tura.
Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Stephen, Goalpara.
Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Swanson, Golaghat.
Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Tuttle, Gauhati.
Miss Isabella Wilson, Gauhati.

Guest.

Miss Jennie Crozier, M.D.

Missionaries Absent—(not on furlough).

Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Dow'd, Impur.
Mrs. H. B. Dickson, in Calcutta.
Dr. and Mrs. S. W. Rivenburg, Kohima.

Missionaries Absent—(on furlough.)

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Burdette, in the U.S.
Mrs. E. W. Clark, in the U.S.
Rev. and Mrs. John Firth, in the U.S.

Rev. and Mrs. W. Pettigrew, in England.

Rev. and Mrs. A. K. Gurney, en route to Assam.
Mrs. M. C. Mason, in the U.S.
Miss Stella Mason, in the U.S.
Mrs. C. E. Petrick, in Germany.
CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.
This body shall be called the Assam Baptist Missionary Conference.

ARTICLE II.
It shall be composed of the missionaries of the Assam Baptist Mission.

ARTICLE III.
Its object shall be the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the Province and border-lands of Assam. In pursuit of this object, the Conference shall (1) seek the enlargement and enrichment of the spiritual life of its members; (2) by discussing the needs and methods of work of the whole field, and by aiming at systematic combination and division of labours, endeavour to secure the highest attainable degree of efficiency; (3) exercise such powers in behalf of the American Baptist Missionary Union as may be delegated to the Conference.

ARTICLE IV.
The Officers of this Conference shall be a President, Clerk, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.
The duties of the President, Clerk and Treasurer shall be those usually pertaining to those offices. The duties of the Corresponding Secretary shall be to conduct the official correspondence for the Conference, to keep a permanent file of the same, and, unless otherwise ordered, to read at each biennial meeting all the official letters sent by him since the previous biennial meeting, together with the replies received. These officers shall perform their respective duties till their successors are installed.

ARTICLE V.
This Conference shall meet biennially at the time and place previously appointed.

ARTICLE VI.
This Conference shall keep a record of its transactions which shall be printed and distributed as shall be determined at each session.

ARTICLE VII.
This Constitution or the By-laws following may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present, notice of the proposed amendment having been given in writing either at the previous biennial meeting or sent to each member on the field at least six months previous to the session in which the proposed amendment is to be considered.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.
The meetings of the Conference shall be opened and closed with prayer.
ARTICLE II.
The President, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot. The Committee of Reference shall elect one of their number for Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE III.
Every member desiring to speak shall rise and address the chair. Should two arise together to speak, the President shall decide which shall speak first—the other, if he wishes, to follow.

ARTICLE IV.
The President shall have the same privilege to speak as any other, provided he calls another member to the chair; but he shall have no vote unless the Conference is equally divided.

ARTICLE V.
All questions, voted on by the Conference in session, except proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, shall be decided by a majority of votes cast.

ARTICLE VI.
This Conference shall elect by ballot a Committee of Reference and a Property Committee.

A. The Committee of Reference shall consist of six missionaries of not less than five years' standing each. At this session of 1900, three members shall be elected for two years and three for four years. Beginning with the session of 1902 three members shall retire and three members shall be elected biennially for a term of four years. At each session of the Conference, before balloting for the members of the Committee of Reference, the Corresponding Secretary shall exhibit a map of Assam, on which is shown the location of the members of the Committee of Reference whose terms of office continue and the portions of the mission that are unrepresented on the Committee of Reference; and the election shall take place in the light of that showing. The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in its own membership pending the next session of the Conference. A member leaving the country for six months thereby vacates his membership on the Committee.

Duties of the Committee.—1. The Committee shall meet immediately after election and organize and elect the Corresponding Secretary of the Conference.

2. The Chairman acting conjointly with the Corresponding Secretary of the Conference is hereby empowered to call a meeting of the Committee and shall call a meeting whenever so requested in writing by three of its members. Four members constitute a quorum.

3. The Corresponding Secretary shall prepare an agenda paper for each meeting and, so far as possible, send copies of the same to the other members previous to the meeting.

4. It shall be the duty of this Committee to take into consideration (1) all matters which may be brought to its notice pertaining to the Mission, requiring reference to, or action of, the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Missionary Union; and (2) also any matter referred to it by any missionary, and to prepare recommendations with reference thereto; but (a) this Committee may adopt rules of procedure
in the consideration of these matters, subject to the approval of the Conference, to which members of the Conference must conform, and (b) the duties of this Committee in relation to the management of mission property shall be limited by the duties of the Property Committee. (3) The functions of this Committee shall not be exercised in such a way as to interfere with the individual privileges and duties of any missionary, arising out of his direct personal responsibility to the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

5. In the years in which the Conference convenes, the Committee shall present said recommendations to the Conference in session. In other years the Committee shall send to each missionary on the field a copy of said recommendations, and solicit his or her vote with reference thereto; except that in cases requiring immediate action, the Committee may and is hereby authorized to act without such references. And at the same time send to each member of the Conference, a copy of all the recommendations communicated. When the votes of the Conference are called for in regard to proposed recommendations, the Corresponding Secretary of the Conference shall declare the result of the vote as soon as a majority of the whole number of possible votes shall have been cast on either side. At the end of one month after circulating the call for votes, the result, if not previously announced, shall be announced according to the majority of the votes cast. Recommendations voted down by the Conference shall not be officially communicated to the American Baptist Missionary Union.

6. The Committee shall prepare the annual Budget of appropriations in time to present to the Conference in the years in which the Conference meets, and in other years shall prepare and circulate copies of said Budget to the several missionaries concerned on or before the 15th of April annually.

7. The Corresponding Secretary shall forward the Budget as finally approved by vote of the Conference as provided in paragraph 5 of this Article, to the Executive Committee on or before the 15th of April annually.

8. The Corresponding Secretary shall make and preserve in well-bound record books a complete record of all the meetings and actions of the Committee; and also keep in tabulated form, for convenient reference, a record (1) of the estimates submitted to the Conference by the missionaries; (2) of the Budget recommended by the Committee; (3) of the amounts actually appropriated by the Executive Committee; all these records to be always open for inspection by any member of the mission, and to be brought to each session of the Conference.

9. The Chairman of the Committee shall prepare a list of all missionaries eligible to membership on the Committee of Reference, and shall send a copy of said list to each missionary on the field one month before the date of the meeting of the Conference. And all votes received from non-attending members of the Conference shall be counted in balloting for the Committee of Reference.

10. The bills covering the working expenses of the Committee of Reference shall be signed by its Chairman and the Corresponding Secretary, and presented to the Mission Treasurer for payment.

11. All estimates for appropriations should be in the hands of the Committee not later than 15th November. In case the estimates of any missionary are not received before the meeting of the Committee
the current year's appropriations for that missionary shall be regard-
ed as his estimates for the coming year.

B. The Property Committee shall consist of three members of the
Conference, and shall be elected at each biennial session of the Con-
ference. Upon any member of the Committee leaving the field for a
period as long as six months during his term of office, his place shall
be considered vacant and the Corresponding Secretary of the Con-
ference shall circulate ballots to the members of the Conference for the
election of a member to fill the vacancy.

Duties of the Committee.—1. The Property Committee shall deal
with technical, financial questions submitted to them by the Executive
Committee, or the Committee of Reference, or by individual mission-
aries acting under the general plans of the Executive Committee. It
shall be their duty also to have charge of sanitaria owned by the
Union, and of any other property of the Union not under the care of
the individual missionary.

2. When requests are presented to the Property Committee in
accordance with the preceding paragraph, it shall consider and report
on the desirability, and furnish estimates of the value of property
proposed to be sold or bought, shall furnish plans and estimates of new
buildings and extensive repairs, and in case the plans and estimates
are approved by the Executive Committee, and the appropriations are
made, it shall act with the missionary in charge of the contemplated
buildings or repairs in the supervision thereof.

3. The duties of this Committee shall not relieve the missionaries
from their individual control of and responsibility for the mission
property in their charge, arising out of their direct personal respon-
sibility to the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Mission-
ary Union

ARTICLE VII.

At each Biennial Conference the President shall appoint (1) an
Examining Committee consisting of one member for each language
in which work is carried on. This Committee shall supervise the
examinations of new missionaries in the vernaculars they are to use,
also in the history of the Assam Baptist Mission as a whole, and
particularly in the history of the field to which they are designated;
(2) a Statistician, whose duty it shall be to receive, arrange, and
transmit to the Executive Committee, the statistics of the Mission.

ARTICLE VIII.
The minutes shall be leisurely read and acted upon.

ARTICLE IX.
Any portion of the minutes may be expunged by a vote of the Con-
ference.

ARTICLE X.
This Constitution and By-laws, together with the minutes, shall be
printed biennially.
Minutes
of the
Assam Baptist Missionary
Conference for 1904-5.

EIGHTH SESSION.

Saturday Evening, December 24th.

8 P.M.—Conference called to order by Rev. W. C. Mason, Clerk of the previous Conference.

Prayer by Rev. E. W. Clark.

Singing—"Blest be the tie that binds."

Election of the Conference officers.

Rev. Joseph Paul appointed Secretary pro tem.

Voted that vote for president and secretary be on a single ballot.

After balloting, it was voted that the unanimous vote of the Conference be cast for Rev. S. A. D. Boggs for President.

Voted that the unanimous vote of the Conference be cast for Rev. L. W. B. Jackman for Clerk.

The following Committee of Arrangements was appointed by the President: Rev. H. B. Dickson, Miss E. C. Bond Rev. P. E. Moore.

Voted that Rev. W. C. Mason be Associate Clerk.

Committee of Arrangements made report for December 25th.

Voted that the sessions of the Conference be from 8 A.M.-11 A.M., 1 P.M.-4 P.M., and the evening session at 7-30 P.M.


Adjournment.

Sunday, December 25th.


2 P.M.—Vernacular Service; Sermon by Samuel Loveday.

4 P.M.—Bazar Preaching.
7-30 P.M.—Devotional Service, led by Miss Isabella Wilson.
Vocal solo, Mrs. J. M. Carvel.

Monday Morning, December 26th.

9 A.M.—Session called to order by the President.
Minutes of the session of Dec. 24th read and approved.
Voted that Roberts' Rules of Order be the guide in all deliberations of the Conference.
Report of the Committee of Arrangements read and accepted.
Election of the Conference Treasurer entered upon.
After balloting it was moved that the Clerk cast the unanimous vote of the Conference for Rev. P. H. Moore for Treasurer.
Rev. P. H. Moore elected Treasurer of the Conference.
Voted that Conference proceed to the consideration of the proposed amendments to the constitution offered by the Constitution Revision Committee appointed at the session of 1900.
Voted that proposed amendment No. 2 be accepted.

Proposed Amendment No. 2
In Article VI of the By-laws, after the words "This Conference shall elect by ballot," substitute for the rest of the paragraph, the words:—

A Committee of Reference and a Property Committee.
Voted that proposed amendment No. 3 be accepted.
In the second paragraph of Article VI of the By-laws, Substitute A. for (2) as a mark of enumeration at the head of the paragraph and The for "A" at its beginning, and strike out the 5th word "which."
Voted that proposed amendment No. 4 be accepted.
In Article VI, 4, of the By-laws, in enumerating the divisions of the paragraph, substitute (1) and (2) for "(a)" and "(b)" respectively.
Voted that proposed amendment No. 5 be accepted.
In Article VI "(2) 4 (b) of the By-laws at the close of the Proposed Amendment No. 5.
clause, substitute a semicolon for the period and add the following:—

but (a) this Committee may adopt rules of procedure in the consideration of these matters, subject to the approval of the Conference, to
MINUTES.

which members of the Conference must conform, and (b) the duties of this Committee in relation to the management of mission property shall be limited by the duties of the Property Committee. (3) The functions of this Committee shall not be exercised in such a way as to interfere with the individual privileges and duties of any missionary, arising out of his direct personal responsibility to the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Voted that proposed amendment No. 6 be accepted.

In article VI, 8 of the By-laws, in enumerating the divisions of this paragraph, substitute No. 6. (1), (2) and (3) for "(a)" "(b)" and "(c)" respectively.

Moved and seconded that proposed amendment No. 7 be accepted.

Amendment offered and carried that the proposed amendment No. 7 be considered seriatim.

Moved that the first clause of the proposed amendment No. 7 be accepted.

Amendment offered and carried that the expression, "Upon any member of the committee leaving," be substituted for the expression, "If any member leave."

Original motion for the acceptance of the first clause of proposed amendment No. 7, as amended, was then carried.

Voted that section 1 of proposed amendment No. 7 be referred to a Committee of three to be appointed by the President. Messrs. Phillips, Tuttle and Perrine were named as such Committee.

Voted that sections 2, 3 and 4 of proposed amendment No. 7 be referred to the same Committee.


Adjournment.

Monday Afternoon, December 26th.

1-30 p.m.—After being called to order by the President the session opened with singing.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Committee appointed at the previous session to consider sections 1, 2, 3, 4 of proposed amendment No. 7 offered their report.

Voted that the recommendations of said Committee be taken up seriatim.

Voted that paragraph 1 under "Duties of Property Committee," as recommended by the Committee, be accepted.

Duties of the Committee 1.—The Property Committee shall deal with technical financial questions submitted to them by the Executive
Committee, or the Committee of Reference, or by individual missionaries acting under the general plans of the Executive Committee. It shall be their duty also to have charge of sanitaria owned by the Union, and of any other property of the Union not under the care of the individual missionary.

Voted that paragraph 2 under "Duties of the Property Committee," as recommended by the Committee be accepted.

Voted to reconsider paragraph No. 2 under "Duties of Property Committee" as recommended by the Committee.

Voted that paragraphs 2—4 inclusive be re-referred to the same Committee for further consideration.

Constitution Revision Committee resumed its report.

Moved and seconded that proposed amendment No. 8 be accepted.

Amendment offered and carried that the expression, "voted on by the Conference in session" be inserted after the word "questions."

The original motion, as amended, was then carried.

In Article V of the By-laws, after the word "questions"

Proposed Amendment No. 8.

insert the following clause:—"voted on by the Conference in session," pointing it off properly by commas.

Voted that proposed amendment No. 10 be accepted.

In Article VI, 7, after the words, "as finally approved,"

Proposed Amendment No. 10.

insert:—"by vote of the Conference as provided in paragraph 5 of this Article."

Voted that proposed amendment No. 11 be referred to above-mentioned Committee, composed of Messrs. Phillips, Perrine, and Tuttle, for further consideration.

Voted that proposed amendment No. 12 be referred to the same Committee.

Report of the Committee of Reference taken up.

Voted that the Corresponding Secretary report the actions taken at the last session (Dec. 19—24) of the Reference Committee.

The Corresponding Secretary, Rev. E. G. Phillips, read such report.

Prayer by Rev. P. E. Moore.

Adjournment.

Monday Evening, December 26th.

7-30 p.m.—Devotional service led by Rev. S. A. Perrine.
Vocal Solo, Rev. L. W. B. Jackman.
8 P.M.—Business session opened with prayer by Rev. C. E. Petrick.

Minutes of last session read and approved.
Budget of 1905-6 taken up for consideration.
Voted that the recommendations of the Reference Committee for Sibsagar be approved.
Voted that the recommendations of the Reference Committee for Nowgong be approved.
Voted that the recommendations of the Reference Committee for Gauhati be approved.
Voted that it be recommended to refund to Rev. A. J. Tuttle Rs. 76 4-4 spent by him in excess of his appropriation for the previous year.
Voted that the estimates of Rev. A. E. Stephen for Goalpara be recommended.
Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee for Tura be approved.
Committee of arrangements made report for Dec. 27th.
Prayer by Rev. M. C. Mason.
Adjournment.

Tuesday Morning, December 27th.

8 A.M.—Devotional service led by Mrs. W C. Mason.
9 A.M.—Business opened with prayer by Rev. O. L. Swanson.
Minutes of the previous session read and approved.
Consideration of the Budget for 1905-6 resumed.
Voted that we recommend that the Rs. 75 which Miss Wilson has expended on repairs on her bungalow and out-houses since her return to Gauhati, be appropriated for her, to be available for the fiscal year 1904-5.
Voted that the recommendations for Impur be approved.
Voted that the amount Rs. 1,198 for Impur, requested as a conditional grant, be recommended.
Adjournment.

Tuesday Afternoon, December 27th.

1 P.M.—Session opened with singing.
Minutes of last session read and approved.
Consideration of Budget resumed.
Voted that the appropriation of Rs. 1,800 for enlargement of Dr. Clark's bungalow at Impur be approved.
Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee for Kohima be approved.

Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee that Dr. and Mrs. Rivenburg be granted furlough at such a time as they are able to take it; that a man be sent to strengthen the working force at Kohima and that he be sent at once, to enable Dr. Rivenburg to take his needed furlough; that provision be made for the erection of a second bungalow at Kohima similar to the one now under construction there, be approved.

Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee for N. Lakhimpur be approved.

Voted that the recommendations of the Reference Committee, that the estimates for Golaghat be approved, with the understanding that the total estimate of Rs. 2,685 shall include all the specifics that may be received during that year.

Voted that the following recommendation of the Reference Committee be approved; that the estimates for Dibrugarh be recommended, with the understanding that all sums received from the rent of the bungalow in Dibrugarh be applied on such estimates.

Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee for Tika be approved.

Moved and seconded that the following recommendation of the Reference Committee be also approved:—

Believing as we do that the work among the Mikirs is a promising work and that it should be vigorously pushed forward by missionaries living among the people, and believing that Tika is the only practicable place, at present, for the location of the missionaries for the Mikirs, we strongly recommend that Rs. 4,000 be at once appropriated for the building of a bungalow at that place.

Information regarding mission work among the Mikirs called for by Rev. P. H. Moore.

Voted that Conference resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the whole conduct of the work among the Mikirs.

After reconvening of Conference, it was voted that the motion before the body be laid upon the table to hear report of the Committee of the whole.

The following report of the Committee of the whole was then submitted:—

Resolved that it is the sense of the Committee of the whole that the Mikir Mission work should be continued to be prosecuted from some station or stations among the Mikir people and in spite of the two drawbacks; of (1) it’s not being geographically centrally located in the
region of country inhabited by the Mikir people, and (2) it's being isolated and not easily accessible, we yet believe the present station of Tika is unquestionably the most advantageous for continuing the Mikir Mission work, and we accordingly recommend that permanent bungalows be erected for the Mikir Mission there.

Voted that the report of the Committee of the whole be accepted.

Voted that the motion regarding the Reference Committee's recommendation relating to the work among the Mikirs be taken from the table.

Voted that the report of the Committee of the whole and the subject of the motion just taken from the table be referred to a committee of three to be appointed by the President and that the Committee be requested to report to this Conference to-morrow a resolution embodying a recommendation to the Executive Committee on the whole subject of the provision that should be made for the prosecution of the Mikir Mission work. Messrs. P. H. Moore, W. C. Mason and Miss E. C. Bond named as such committee.

Prayer by Rev. W. Dring.

Adjournment.

**Tuesday Evening, December 27th.**

7-30 p.m.—Devotional Service led by Miss A. E. Long.
Vocal Solo by Rev. W. C. Mason.
Singing of Conference Hymn composed by Dr. W E. Witter.

8-15 p.m.—Business session opened with prayer by Rev. W C. Mason.

Minutes of last session read and approved.

Consideration of budget for 1905-6 resumed.

Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee for Rs. 800 for Jorhat for 1905-6 be approved.

Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee made in Nov. 1903 for the appropriation of Rs. 900 and that made in Dec. 1904 for the appropriation of Rs. 1,156 for Jorhat, be approved, and that this amount be made available for 1904-5.

Voted that the following recommendations of the Reference Committee in reference to Ukhrul be approved: "That as no estimates have been submitted for Ukhrul and as we are uninformed of the needs, we recommend that Mr. Pettigrew send his estimates for 1905-6 directly to the Executive Commit-
Voted that the recommendations of the Reference Committee, that Rev. L. W. B. Jackman’s estimate of Rs. 380 be his appropriation for 1905-6, be approved.

Voted that we extend to Dr. Jennie Crozier a cordial welcome to the mission field in India, and as a guest to our meetings here, and bid her a hearty God’s speed in the work that she has come to do under a sister society.

Response to the welcome by Dr. Jennie Crozier.

Voted that the following recommendations of the Reference Committee in reference to Sadiya be approved: “That we recommend that Dr. Clark’s generous offer of Rs. 3,500 for building a bungalow at Sadiya be thankfully received; that Rev. and Mrs. Jackman be designated to Sadiya, and that Rev. J. Paul and Rev. L. W. B. Jackman be requested to make an early visit to Sadiya, prospecting for the opening of the mission work in that field by the A.B.M.U. and report to the Reference Committee.

Voted that the following recommendation of the Reference Committee relating to Jorhat be approved; “As a matter of economy of both money and missionary time and strength we recommend that Rs. 1,300 be granted to Rev. S. A. D. Boggs to enable him to act at once and put an iron roof, instead of a thatch one on the bungalow to be built for the Bible School missionary at Jorhat.

Reading communications from Mrs. Clark and Dr. Witter.
Prayer by Rev. C. E. Petrick.
Adjournment.

Wednesday Morning, December 28th.

8 A.M.—Devotional Service led by Mrs. O. L. Swanson.
9 A.M.—Business Session opened with prayer by Rev. S. A. Perrine.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Voted that the following recommendation of the Reference Committee, relating to the designation of Rev. and Mrs. Gurney, be approved:

“That Rev. and Mrs. Gurney on arrival, go first to Dibrugarh and that, if other arrangements for house accommodations are necessary, they be made in consultation with the Property Committee.”

Voted that the recommendation of the Reference Committee that Rev. and Mrs Dickson be assigned to Impur to take the place of Rev. and Mrs. Perrine, who are leaving that station, be approved.
Report of the Committee appointed to report resolutions embodying a recommendation to the Executive Committee on the whole subject of the provision that should be made for the prosecution of the work among the Mikirs, was read.

Voted that the report of such Committee be accepted.

After discussion and prayer, led by Rev. O. L. Swanson, it was unanimously voted that said report be adopted:

Whereas the Assam Baptist Missionary Conference in its session of 1904, has, in accordance with a resolution of the Reference Committee adopted at its meeting in March, 1902, taken up and considered carefully and prayerfully the question of the permanent conduct of the Mikir Mission work;

And, whereas the whole subject was laid before the said Conference in a Committee of the whole, using a sketch map showing the territory inhabited by the Mikir tribe, and after about two hours of earnest inquiry as to all the facts, and consultation with the missionaries to the Mikirs, a unanimous report was given favorable to Tika as the most advantageous location for the continued prosecution of the Mikir Mission work;

And, whereas the Committee of Reference has recorded its conviction "that the work among the Mikirs is a promising work, and that it should be vigorously pushed forward by a missionary living among the people" and "that Tika is the only practicable place at present for the location of the missionaries for the Mikirs;"

And, whereas one of the temporary bungalows built at Tika in the cool season of 1896-7 is now utterly delapidated and uninhabitable—

Therefore Resolved:—

(1) That we adopt the report of the Committee of the whole, referred to above, as the expression of the sense of this Conference on the subject dealt with therein.

(2) That we recommend that the Executive Committee regard Tika as the headquarters of the Tika Mission and make provision for the suitable equipment of that station.

(3) That we recommend that an appropriation of Rs. 6,000 be made immediately available for the erection of one mission bungalow at Tika, in order that that bungalow may be built during the cool season of 1905-6.

The Committee appointed to consider paragraphs 2-5 of proposed amendment No. 7, also proposed amendments Nos. 11 and 12, made the following report:—

In place of paragraphs 2-4 substitute:

2. When requests are presented to the Property Committee in accordance with the preceding paragraph, it shall consider and report on the desirability, and furnish estimates of the value, of property proposed to be sold or bought, shall furnish plans and estimates of new buildings and extensive repairs, and in case the plans and estimates are approved by the Executive Committee, and the appropriations are made, it shall act with the missionary in charge of the contemplated buildings or repairs in the supervision thereof.
Omit paragraph (3) and make paragraph (4) paragraph (3). Insert the last clause of proposed amendment No. 11, namely the words, "And at the same time send to each member of the Conference a copy of all the recommendations communicated" after the word "references" in the sixth and seventh lines of paragraph 5 of this article VI, as printed in the last Conference report; making the necessary punctuation.

Voted that the above report of the Committee be accepted and adopted.

Moved that the Conference resolve itself into a Committee of the whole to consider amendments to the constitution proposed by Dr. Clark.

On reconvening of Conference, the Committee of the whole reported no definite action.

Prayer by Rev. P. E. Moore.

Adjournment.

**Wednesday Afternoon, December 28th.**

1 P.M.—Business Session opened with singing.

Prayer by Rev. L. W. B. Jackman.

Minutes of the last session read and approved.

Moved and seconded that the following amendment, suggested by Dr. Clark, be approved:

In section A. of Article VI of the By-laws after the word "each" there be inserted, "but this five years' standing qualification shall be inoperative when interfering with representation," so that the whole sentence read thus—

"A. The Committee of Reference shall consist of six missionaries of not less than five years' standing each, but this five years' standing qualification shall be inoperative when interfering with representation."

Voted that the whole matter mentioned in Dr. Clark's proposed amendments to the By-laws be referred to a Committee to be appointed by the President, to report a proposed amend-ment on the subject, to the Conference. Messrs. Phillips, P. H. Moore, Perrine, Tuttle and Paul named as such Com-mittee.

The following committees were appointed by the President:—

Committee on Resolutions: Messrs. M. C. Mason, Stephen and Perrine.

Committee of Time and Place of next Conference: Messrs. P. H. Moore, Tuttle and Phillips.

Committee on Conference Expenses: Messrs. Swanson, P. E. Moore and Clark.
Moved that all letters conveying votes, received by the Corresponding Secretary, be preserved by him.
Prayer by Dr. Clark.
Adjournment.

Wednesday Evening, December 28th.
7:30 P.M.—Devotional Meeting led by Mrs. Tuttle.
Vocal duet by Rev. and Mrs. Dring.
8-10 P.M.—Business Session opened with prayer by Miss Long.
Minutes of previous session read and approved.
Reading by the Corresponding Secretary of the correspondence of the Reference Committee relating to urgent cases dealt with by said Committee.
Moved that the reading of the rest of the letters written by the Corresponding Secretary, for the last two years, be omitted.
Report for the Committee of Arrangements for Dec. 29th.
Prayer by Rev. J. Paul.
Adjournment.

Thursday Morning, December 29th.
8 A.M.—Devotional Service led by Mrs. P. H. Moore.
8:45 A.M.—Business Session opened with prayer by Rev. M. C. Mason.
Minutes of the previous session read and approved.
Report of Committee, appointed to consider the proposed amendments suggested by Dr. Clark, was read.
Voted that the report be accepted and taken up for consideration.
Moved and seconded that the following portion of the proposed amendment be adopted:
Insert in line 12, in Article VI (2), as printed in the last Conference Report, after "years" "At each session of the Conference, before balloting for the members of the Committee of Reference, the Corresponding Secretary shall exhibit a map of Assam, on which is shown the location of the members of the Committee of Reference whose terms of office continue and the portions of the mission that are unrepresented on the Committee of Reference, and the election shall take place in the light of that showing, but no station shall have two members on the Committee of Reference."
Amendment offered and carried that the last clause of the above portion of the proposed amendment, namely "but no station shall have two members on the Committee of Reference" be dropped.

The original motion, as amended and reading as follows, was then carried:

Insert in line 12, in Article VI (2), as printed in the Conference report after "years":—

At each session of the Conference, before balloting for the members of the Committee of Reference, the Corresponding Secretary shall exhibit a map of Assam, on which is shown the location of the members of the Committee of Reference whose terms of office continue and the portions of the mission that are unrepresented on the Committee of Reference, and the election shall take place in the light of that showing.

A call was made for the reading of the letter of greeting from Dr. Barbour, which was read.

Letters from Mrs. Clark and Rev. and Mrs. Firth to the Conference were also read.

Voted that Rev. C. E. Petrick be requested to reply to Dr. Barbour's letter.

Voted that Miss Ella C. Bond be requested to reply to Mrs. Clark's letter.

Voted that Rev. O. L. Swanson be requested to reply to Rev. and Mrs. Firth's letter.

Prayer by Dr. Clark.

Adjournment.

Thursday Afternoon, December 29th.

1-30 p.m.—Business session opened with prayer by Mrs. O. L. Swanson.

Report of the Language Examination General Committee submitted by Rev. P. H. Moore: "In continuation of the report of the Language Examination Committee at the Conference of 1902 (see page 15 of the Report of the Conference), your Committee reports that the result of Dr. Crozier's second year examination in the Garo language has been announced and that he passed the tests. Also Rev. Walter C. Mason has passed both the first and second year examinations in Garo since our last conference.

Rev. M. C. Mason has outlined the course of study in Garo and Rev. E. G. Phillips set the papers and conducted the examination for the first year and Rev. M. C. Mason for the second year for Rev. W. C. Mason.

In Assamese Miss Anna Long passed her second year
examination in the spring of 1903, the papers being set and the examination conducted by Rev. and Mrs. P. H. Moore.

Rev. A. Judson Tuttle passed both his first and second years’ examinations in Assamese in the year 1903, the papers being set and the examination conducted by Rev. C. E. Burdette.

Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Dickson wished to take their first year examination in Assamese in the summer of 1903. But as they were then at N. Lakhimpur and an examination at that time involved either an expensive journey for them to Nowgong or Gauhati; or else a journey of someone else to N. Lakhimpur to conduct the examination, the Language Examination Committee decided that the examination should be postponed for a more convenient season. That season did not come till the summer of 1904 when both Mr. and Mrs. Dickson passed their first year examination; Mrs. Dickson being the first missionary’s wife to undertake a language examination in Assamese, Mrs. M. C. Mason and Mrs. G. G. Crozier in Garo, and Mrs. Dickson in Assamese, thus setting example to wives of missionaries, which the Committee heartily commend. Rev. and Mrs. Dickson wished to undertake a second year examination before this Conference, but the Committee has not yet found it convenient to arrange a time and place for it.

Miss Miller was very desirous to take her first year examination in Assamese in March 1904, but the verdict of the Language Examination Committee was that the examination should wait, in the hope that it might be taken later with less tax on her then enfeebled health and strength.

No other candidates for language examinations have been available during the years 1903 and 1904.”

(Signed.) P. H. Moore, Chairman.

29th Dec. 1904.

Moved that the report be thankfully accepted.
The following Language Examination Committee was appointed by the President.
For examinations in Assamese, Rev. P. H. Moore.
For examinations in Manipur and Tangkhul Naga, Rev. W. Pettigrew.
For examinations in Garo, Rev. E. G. Phillips.
For examinations in Hindi, Rev. C. E. Petrick.
For examinations in Mikir, Rev. P. E. Moore.
For examinations in Ao Naga, Rev. W. F. Dowd.
For examinations in Angami Naga, Rev. S. W. Rivenburg.
For examinations in Patia, Rangdania Rabha and Bengali, Rev. A. E. Stephen.

Election of three members of the Reference Committee.
Voted that only members actually upon the field shall be considered eligible.
Voted that the three members be voted for on one ballot.
After balloting informally, it was voted that the ballot for the two receiving the greatest number of votes, namely, Dr. E. W. Clark and Rev. A. E. Stephen, be declared formal and these two elected.

On the second ballot Rev. O. L. Swanson was elected third member of the Reference Committee.

Election of the Property Committee. After balloting informally a formal ballot was taken for the six receiving the highest number of votes on the previous ballot, and Messrs. P. H. Moore, Boggs, and Dring were elected as the Property Committee.

Moved that the matter brought to the attention of the Conference by Dr. G. G. Crozier be referred to a Committee, composed of Messrs. Perrine and M. C. Mason.


Voted that the Conference approves of a Christian Literature Committee for the languages spoken in Assam, and hereby appoints the missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union, nominated by Rev. P. H. Moore, adding Rev. P. H. Moore and Rev. S. A. D. Boggs, to be the representatives of the American Baptist Missionary Union on that body. The following were those so nominated:—

Rev. A. K. Gurney.
Miss Ella Bond, Tura, Garo.
Dr. S. W. Rivenburg, Kohima, Angami Naga.
Rev. C. E. Petrick, Sibsagar.
Rev. O. L. Swanson, Golaghat.
Rev. J. M. Carvell, Tika, Mikir.
Rev. W. Pettigrew, Ukul, Tangkhul Naga and Manipuri.
Miss Anna C. Long, Nowgong.
Rev. A. J. Tuttle, Gauhati.
Rev. S. Endle, Tezpur, (S.P.G.)
J. Herbert Lorrain, (B.M.S.), Fort Lungleh, Lushai.
Voted that the following named missionaries of the A.B.M.U., who work in the Assamese language and form the Assamese Subdivision of the Christian Literature Committee for Assam, be nominated by this Conference as the Committee asked for by the Executive Committee in Dr. Barbour’s letter of Nov. 2, 1904: Messrs. Tuttle, Swanson, Petrick, Paul, P. H. Moore, Boggs, Gurney and Miss Long.
Prayer by Rev. J. M. Carvell.
Adjournment.

Thursday Evening, December 29th.

7-30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting led by Mrs. G. G. Crozier.
Vocal Duet by Mrs. S. A. D. Boggs and Dr. Jennie Crozier.
8 p.m.—Business Session opened with prayer by Rev. S. A. D. Boggs.
Minutes of last session read and approved.
Miss Long appointed Statistician.
Voted that a vote of thanks be extended to Mrs. Rivenburg for keeping the vital statistics, and that she be requested to hand over her record of statistics to her successor.
Voted that our President be requested to reply to the letter to the Conference received from Dr. Witter.
Reports from the different fields taken up.
Report from Dibrugarh by Rev. C. E. Petrick.
Voted that the matter of the oversight of the Arthington Aborigines Mission to the Singphos be referred to a Committee composed of Messrs. Phillips and P. H. Moore, to bring in a recommendation to the Conference.
Reports from Goalpara by Rev. A. E. Stephen.
Voted that Messrs. Phillips and Stephen be appointed a committee to bring in a report as to the advisability of holding Dhubri or allowing some other Society to occupy the field.
Prayer by Rev. J. Paul.
Adjournment.
Friday Morning, December 30th.

8 a.m.—Devotional Service led by Rev. L. W. B. Jackman.
9 a.m.—Business Session opened with prayer by Rev. J. M. Carvell.

Minutes of last session read and approved.
Reports of the different fields resumed.
Report from the Golaghat field by Rev. O. L. Swanson.
This was followed by questions and additional information as to the hopeful signs of the Assamese becoming more favorable to the Gospel.
Reports from the Impur field from Dr. Clark, Rev. S. A. Perrine and Rev. W. F. Dowd.
Prayer by Rev. J. Paul.
Adjournment.

Friday Afternoon, December 30th.

1-30 p.m.—Session opened with singing.
Prayer by Rev. P. H. Moore.
Minutes of the previous session read and approved.
Reports from the different mission fields resumed.
Voted that a special committee be appointed to draft resolutions respecting the ravages of opium in our different mission fields in Assam, and present the same to the Conference for its approval. Messrs. Jackman, Carvell, Paul and M. C. Mason named as such committee.
Report from the Nowgong field presented by Rev. P. H. Moore.
Report from the Sibsagar field presented by Rev. C. E. Petrick.
Singing of the Doxology.
Adjournment.

Friday Evening, December 30th.

8 p.m.—Social evening at the home of Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Tuttle. Program:—
Vocal Solo, Mrs. J. M. Carvell.
Cornet Solo, Rev. L. W. B. Jackman.
MINUTES.

Vocal Solo, Miss Louise Boggs.
Vocal Solo, Rev. W. C. Mason.
Reading, Mrs. W. Dring.
Vocal Solo, Mrs. W. C. Mason.
Vocal Solo, Rev. L. W. B. Jackman.
Reading, Miss Louise Boggs.
Vocal Solo, Rev. H. B. Dickson.

After the program refreshments were served and an enjoyable social hour spent,

Saturday Morning, December 31st.

8 A.M.—Devotional Service led by Rev. A. E. Stephen.
9 A.M.—Business Session opened with prayer by Rev. H. B. Dickson.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.
Report of Committee appointed to draft resolutions relating to the ravages of the opium trade.
Voted that the following report and resolutions be adopted as the voice of the Conference:

FROM

THE ASSAM CONFERENCE OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION.

To

THE HON. J. B. FULLER, I.C.S.,
The Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Be it resolved that we rejoice to learn of the efforts being made to lessen the use of intoxicating liquors in the Province of Assam, and would be glad to see the entire abolition of the traffic.

Furthermore; whereas the sale of opium is making great havoc by the degrading influence of the drug on the native peoples on many of our mission fields, thus hindering and counteracting the civilizing and ennobling effects of the Christian Religion upon these peoples; and

Whereas the baneful and degrading effect of this habit seems to us to be on the increase, and we know it to be in some sections among these peoples; and whereas the sale of opium is under the direct supervision and control of the British Government; and

Whereas the British Government is founded upon and owes its greatness to the blessings of Christianity which are by this traffic in opium being greatly and seriously retarded in their progress in the Province of Assam;

Therefore be it Resolved—

(1) That we, Christian Missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union, in Conference assembled, do deeply deplore the degradation and ruin wrought by this traffic upon the native peoples of this Province.

(2) That we do respectfully request and earnestly implore the British Government, through its representative, The Hon. J. B. Fuller,
I.C.S., The Chief Commissioner of Assam, to do all in its power to abolish the sale of the drug, except it be for medicinal purposes, in this province.

Dated, Guwhati, 31st December 1904.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the advisability of holding the Dhubri field.

Moved and seconded that the report be adopted.

Voted that the matter considered in the report be referred to the same committee, enlarged by adding Messrs. M. C. Mason, P. H. Moore and A. J. Tuttle.

Voted that the Conference vote informally as to its wish in reference to holding and working the Dhubri field.

The unanimous vote of the Conference was given for holding and working the Dhubri field.

The following report of the Committee on Time and Place of next Conference was read: "1st, as to Place: That we continue to regard Guwhati as the permanent home of the Conference, but reserve the privilege of accepting invitations to meet at other stations.

2nd, as to Time: That the date of the meeting be fixed to begin on the 1st Sunday and continue through the 2nd Sunday in January 1907."

Voted that the report be adopted

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the matter of our Mission's oversight of the Arthington Aborigines Mission to the Singphos.

The following report of the Committee was adopted:—

To

Rev. M. St. Dalmas.

Dear Brother,

The attention of our Conference has been called by Mr. Petrick of Sibsagar to the work of C. B. Themsen (Cecil).

The further work that Cecil can do along the line of translation and revision seems to promise little value, while the direct evangelistic work that is so greatly needed in and about Ledo, among the large mining population there and the nearby Singpho population, would be full of much promise. Mr. Petrick recommends that Cecil be asked to remove to Ledo and give his time and strength to evangelistic work there. Our Conference heartily approves of such recommendation."

Report of Committee on Conference Expenses.

"Expense of the Guwhati Missionaries for entertaining Conference;

For sweeper and building bath-rooms, Rs. 21-10,"
Moved and seconded that the expenses mentioned in the Report, together with all other expenses which may be incurred in the same manner, be paid by the Conference Treasurer from the funds that he has in hand.

Voted that the motion before the house be laid on the table.

Voted that a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the expenses of the Conference and formulate a request to the Executive Committee to pay the travelling expenses of the members incurred by attendance at Conference. Messrs. M. C. Mason, Boggs, and Petrick appointed as such committee.

Voted that the resolution, offered by Rev. P. H. Moore relating to the exchange on money sent to the Missionaries from the Rooms in Boston, be approved.

The following Rules made by the Reference Committee to guide them in their duties and deliberations were read:—

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE ASSAM COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE.

1. All matters to be considered by the Committee of Reference must be presented through the Chairman of the Committee.

2. The Chairman shall decide whether the matter shall be entered upon the agenda paper for the next meeting or dealt with by circular through the mails. In the latter case, he shall instruct the Secretary to send a separate copy of the circular to each member of the Committee.

3. In order to secure promptness in all actions, each member shall be expected to post his vote or reply to the Chairman within 48 hours of receipt of the circular from the Secretary.

4. The Chairman shall decide whether or not to delay a declaration of vote upon an urgent matter, when a majority have replied and waiting for the minority cannot alter the decision.

5. If, after one month from the mailing of circulars, the Corresponding Secretary has not received the votes of all the members, the Chairman shall decide the question in accordance with the majority of votes cast, provided that a quorum of the Committee have voted.

6. In circulars calling for an expression of opinion, when a majority have expressed an essentially similar opinion, the Chairman shall sum up the decision; but in cases in which
opinions widely differ and a practical decision has not been reached, he shall formulate a motion to be sent out by the Secretary, with all papers pertaining thereto, when practicable, for further consideration and vote of the Committee. For the sake of form the Chairman may be considered the mover and the Secretary the seconder of this motion, but their right to vote against the motion shall not be affected thereby.

7. In case of a desired amendment to a motion while in circulation, the mover of the amendment shall send it to the Chairman, who shall instruct the Secretary to send out at once to each member a copy asking him to vote—(1) upon the amendment, (2) upon the question as it would stand amended, and (3) also to vote upon the original motion, this vote to be counted in case the amendment is lost.

8. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall simply declare that a tie vote has been passed.

9. In all votes cast by correspondence each member shall say whether or not he regards the case as urgent, requiring immediate action or non-urgent, requiring to be laid before the Assam Baptist Missionary Conference.

10. Whenever a vote is taken by correspondence, the Chairman shall deliver his declaration to the Secretary to be recorded and kept on file, with all accompanying papers to be filed.

11. The Secretary shall at once communicate all such decisions to all the members of the Conference on the field; and such of them as are voted “urgent” to the Foreign Secretary of the A.B.M.U. also.

12. No member shall make public the reasons assigned by any other member for the position he may take upon any matter.

13. The Chairman and Secretary shall decide what decisions of general interest shall be printed in THE NEWS.

14. The Committee of Reference will offer no recommendation upon any matter upon which the Executive Committee have announced their decision, unless in the possession of facts, which, had they been known, might reasonably have lead to a different decision.

15. In case of a protest against any recommendation of the Committee of Reference a copy of such protest should be sent by the protestant to the Chairman of the Committee of Reference in time for him to formulate a reply before the protest be sent either to the Conference or to the Executive
Committee in Boston. And we request that the authority appealed to defer action upon such protest, until a copy of such protest has been delivered to said Chairman, and time given for a reply.

16. No information or charges against a fellow-missionary shall be made a basis of proceeding by the Committee until the Corresponding Secretary shall have communicated the said information or charges, with the names of the authors, to the accused and given ample opportunity for explanation and defence. And unless these charges are accepted as basis of action, they shall be returned to the authors unfiled.

SUGGESTIONS.

1. In sending communications to the Corresponding Secretary or Chairman of the Committee of Reference, it should be remembered that they are to be filed. In writing them, leave a margin and allow a separate sheet for each subject.

2. When sending in estimates for a budget for sake of clearness, itemize fully and avoid lump estimates; also explain fully all estimates that may possibly need explanation. Thus fully itemizing does not prevent using a balance under one head to meet a deficiency under another, as finally the most of the items are, in the appropriations, lumped as "Miscellanies."

3. Matters to be brought before the Conference as a body, by correspondence, should be presented through the Corresponding Secretary.

Voted that the above Rules be adopted by the Conference and that the Committee of Reference be requested to have 150 copies of them, incorporating also the suggestions made by it, printed in pamphlet form, so that each member of the Conference may have a copy.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the organization of the new Committee of Reference; Chairman, Rev. E. G. Phillips.

Corresponding Secretary of Conference and Clerk of Reference Committee, Rev. A. E. Stephen.

The following recommendations of the Reference Committee were read:

1st.—That the Corresponding Secretary be supplied with a good duplicator for the use of the Corresponding Secretary, at the expense of the A.B.M.U.
2nd.—That the Property Committee be requested to make out plans and estimates of the bungalow recommended at Tika, and for the recommended enlargement of Dr. Clark’s bungalow at Impur, and send them on to the Executive Committee.

3rd.—That we accept the report of the Property Committee as to the impracticability of building a suitable bungalow at Tika for Rs. 4,000.

4th.—That we recommend that the request of Miss Miller for permission to use the balance of Rs. 100 of her appropriation for Teacher for 1903-4, for putting the room in order at once, be approved.

Voted that the recommendations be approved.


Adjournment.

Saturday Afternoon, December 31st.

1-30 p.m.—Session opened with singing.
Prayer by Rev. W. Dring.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Greetings to Conference from Miss Miller, Mr. Dowd, Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Dickson and Dr. Rivenburg.

Voted that those conveying the messages be requested to extend greetings, on behalf of the Conference, to such absent members.

Voted that the following resolutions be adopted:

RESOLVED—That we, the missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union in Assam, convened in Conference at Gauhati, Dec. 1904, do hereby express to the Hon. Mr. J. B. Fuller, The Chief Commissioner of Assam, our grateful appreciation for his efforts in behalf of education in the Province, and especially for the aid from the Government for schools and school books for the hill tribes for which so many of us have for so long laboured.

And that we express to him our thankfulness for his kindness in granting to us, equally with others laboring in Assam, the free use of the Government rest-houses of the Province, when travelling.

RESOLVED—That with these expressions of gratitude we send him three copies of the Annual Report of our Society now in hand, and request our Conference Report Committee to forward to him three copies of the Report of this Conference when printed.

Voted that Rev. C. E. Petrick be instructed to convey the thanks of the Conference to the Chief Commissioner upon receiving the gift proposed by the latter.

Voted that Rev. A. E. Stephen’s resignation as correspondent of the Baptist Missionary Review be accepted.

Voted that Mrs. W. C. Mason be chosen correspondent of the Baptist Missionary Review for the following two years.

Voted that the Clerk and Associate Clerk be appointed a committee to prepare and print the minutes of the Conference.
Discussion, "What are Legitimate Mission Expenses?"—Rev. M. C. Mason, Dr. Clark.

Paper, "Biblical Prerequisites of Baptism"—Rev. M. C. Mason.

Paper, "Marriage and Divorce of Native Christians"—Rev. S. A. Perrine.


Prayer by Rev. P. E. Moore.

Adjournment.

Saturday Evening, December 31st.

7-30 p.m.—Devotional Service led by Rev. S. A. D. Boggs.

8 p.m.—Session opened with prayer by Rev. E. G. Phillips.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Voted that the motion passed at the previous session, relating to the morning sessions of Jan. 1st, be stricken from the minutes.

Following Committees appointed by the President:—

Committee on Program for the next Conference: Messrs. W C. Mason, O. L. Swanson, and Miss Long.

Music Committee:—Messrs. P. E. Moore, L. W. B. Jackson, and Mrs. Carvell.

Obituary:—Miss E. C. Bond.

Conference Librarian:—Mrs. A. J. Tuttle.

Voted that the resolutions of the Committee on Resolutions instructing the Printing Committee, be recommitted.

Voted that the following report of the Committee on working the Dhubri field be unanimously adopted.

"We, the Assam Mission in Conference, after a careful and earnest consideration of our relation to the district of Goalpara as a whole, and the relation of that field to the work of the other fields occupied by us, and considering the strong probability that the territory from Dhubri to Gauhati, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River, is to be soon much more vitally related to the rest of our work, because of the new railway building through that territory, and considering the very large population which appears as susceptible as the most of Assam, we unanimously urge that our Society put a strong working force into that district. And with this work in view, we recommend that Brother A. E. Stephen give at once, much or most of his time to working that field,
where he has already done much effective work, which needs to be followed up: that for the present he live at Goalpara, and, in union with the missionaries at Tura, do what can be done to water and cultivate the seed sown on the south bank among the Rabhas, and in Goalpara, until we are reinforced for that work. On account of the uncertainty of Dhubri’s permanency as a town and Government headquarters we do not recommend the purchase of property, or erection of buildings, until this uncertainty is removed, but that property be rented instead.

In order that Brother Stephen may enter at once, without hindrances, into this important work, we suggest to the Committee of Reference that, if possible, he be relieved of the work of the Corresponding Secretary.

Voted that the following resolution of the Committee on Resolutions be adopted:—

"Resolved—that this Conference in session have considered the need of reinforcement, and do earnestly urge that without delay, besides the doctor who we understand is promised for Impur, a strong man be sent to Kohima to relieve Brother Eivenburg for furlough and, upon his return, to be associated with him in pushing on the work which seems to be increasing encouragingly.

And that as soon as possible a medical missionary be sent to work with Brother Jackman for the Miri Daffla work which we now propose to take up.

And that another strong man be sent for the Goalpara work, as previously recommended.

We also beseech the Woman’s Society of the East to send promptly associates for Miss Wilson of Gauhati and Miss Bond of Tura.

We feel strongly many other needs but refrain from mentioning more because of the urgency of the above.

Voted that the report of the Committee to consider Dr. Crozier’s proposition be accepted and adopted:—

In view of the presentations made before this Conference by Dr. Crozier, and inasmuch as the Executive Committee have referred to this Conference for discussion and recommendation the question of a missionary doctor in attendance upon a fellow-missionary in a station other than the doctor’s own, it is the sense of this Conference: (1) That a missionary doctor should not be called from his own station and work except in extreme need; (2) That when so called from his own to another station, when it is possible for him to respond, his labor there should be considered simply a part of the work he is sent to the mission field to accomplish; (3) That in cases where a missionary doctor serves a missionary of the A.B.M.U. no fees are to be charged; (4) That the time of the doctor, necessary for such attendance, should be freely donated by the Missionary Union; (5) That the expense of the doctor’s travel to respond to such calls should be borne by the missionary served, except in such cases as the Executive Committee shall consider worthy of special action.
Voted that the following report, instructing the Printing Committee, be adopted:—

That the Printing Committee be guided by the following instructions in printing the report of this Conference:—

1. All reports of committees that have been adopted by this Conference shall be printed in connection with the minutes of this Conference.

2. All the historical reports from the several fields shall be printed in the report.

3. They shall print 500 copies of this report at the expense of the Conference, the cost of the same to be apportioned to the several members of the Conference on the field according to their respective salaries.

4. They shall make such arrangements with the Baptist Mission Press of Calcutta as shall secure the issue of the report from the Press by the 15th of March, 1905.

5. They shall be instructed to send 25 copies to the Rooms of the A.B.M.U.; 15 copies to each of the nine District Secretaries; 50 copies to each of the Women’s Societies; 150 copies to the Anniversaries; 10 copies each to Brothers Haggard, Firth, Burdette, M. C. Mason, Perrine, Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Crozier: 20 copies for the Mission Library.

6. They shall ascertain how many copies each member of the Conference desires and print the required number for the Missionaries in addition to the 500 copies, and collect from the several Missionaries the cost of the number supplied to them respectively.

Reading of Rev. O. L. Swanson’s resignation from the Committee of Reference.

Voted that the Conference reluctantly accept the resignation.

Voted that the Conference proceed to ballot for a successor to Mr. Swanson.

On balloting Rev. S. A. D. Boggs was elected to fill the vacant place on the Reference Committee.

Voted that the Conference appoint the following committee to whom shall be referred the whole matter of Romanizing the Assamese for use among hill tribes:—

Dr. E. W Clark, Revs. S. A. D. Boggs, P. H. Moore, A. K. Gurney, L. W. B. Jackman.

Voted that the Printing Committee be authorized to refuse to accept for printing, any papers not in the hands of the editors before Jan. 15, 1905.

The following proposed amendments were announced for consideration and action at the next Conference in 1906:—

That Article II of the By-laws be changed to read, ‘The officers of the Conference shall be elected by ballot, the election of the Corresponding Secretary being subject to the condition as expressed in Article V1-A, of the By-laws. That in Article VI-A, the word “seven”
be substituted for "six" and at the end of the sentence, after the word "each," the following be added: one of whom shall be the Corresponding Secretary.

That in paragraph 1 under 'Duties of the Committee' the phrase 'and elect the Corresponding Secretary of the Conference' be omitted.


Adjournment.

**Sunday, January 1st.**

9-30 A.M.—Devotional service led by Miss Ella Bond.
Quartette: Mrs. Boggs, Mrs. Perrine, Messrs. Dickson and Jackman.
2 P.M.—Assamese Service, Sermon by Rev. O. L. Swanson.
4 P.M.—Bazar Services.
7-30 P.M.—Devotional Service led by Rev. C. E. Petrick.
Vocal Solo by Rev. H. B. Dickson.
Watch-word, by Rev. P. E. Moore.
Quartette: Messrs. P. E. Moore, Dickson, Jackman and Boggs.

**Monday Morning, January 2nd.**


Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

Voted that the following additional suggestion of the Reference Committee be adopted: "3. Matters to be brought before the Conference as a body, by correspondence, should be presented through the Corresponding Secretary."

The following resolution was adopted: "Voted that this Conference hereby return hearty thanks to all the Missionaries at Gauhati for their help in making preparations for these meetings here, and for the many kindnesses and courtesies received from them throughout the Conference."

Voted that the Conference recommend an additional grant to Rev. S. A. D. Boggs, for taxes—Rs. 30; and for medical purposes—Rs. 50.

Report of the Reference Committee's meeting of Dec. 31st, at which Rev. S. A. D. Boggs was elected Corresponding Secretary in place of Rev. A. E. Stephen, resigned.

Voted that the report be accepted.

Voted that the names of Dr. Clark and Rev. L. W. B.
Jackman be added to the Assam Section of the Christian Literature Committee.

Voted that Rev. P. E. Moore be added to the Printing Committee, to write the Summary of the Historical articles for the Conference Report.

Voted that the Conference relieve the committee appointed to look into Conference expenses, and that Rev. M. C. Mason be requested to present the matter personally to the Executive Committee.

Voted that the motion to have the Conference expenses paid by the Treasurer be taken from the table.

Voted that the bill, reported by the committee on Conference Expenses, be paid by the Conference Treasurer.

The following resolution was adopted: "As it is expected that Rev. M. C. Mason, Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Perrine and Mrs. Crozier will soon be returning to America, we recommend them to the churches at home as delegates of our Conference to present our work and needs in Assam."

Minutes of the session read and approved.

Prayer by Rev. M. C. Mason.
Adjournment sine die.
General View of the Field.

Rev. P. E. Moore.

Thirty-four of our missionaries were present at the Conference. Ill-health has unsettled Mr. and Mrs. Dickson, and the Conference recommends their settlement at Impur.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackman are the only new recruits, and this Conference recommends that they be stationed at Sadiya. Mr. and Mrs. Gurney are expected to reach Assam soon, and it is voted that they locate at Dibrugarh for the present.

Mr. and Mrs. Boggs have recently returned, and Mr. Boggs goes at once to build a bungalow and establish a station at Jorhat, where he is to conduct a school for training evangelists.

We are still holding the same twelve stations we had two years ago. Dibrugarh has not had a resident missionary all the time, but Bro. Petrick has worked the field. We hope Sadiya will be a full-fledged plant of the A.B.M.U. by next Conference. And steps were taken looking toward making Dhubri, with the territory through which the new Railway is coming, another new station of the A.B.M.U.

Sibsagar reports 16 churches as against 10 at last Conference. Nowgong 7 (including Tika), making a gain of two churches. North Lakhimpur reports 12 churches, or a gain of one. At the same time three are reported as “in rags” on account of opium. Impur reports 9 churches as against 11 last Conference. Dibrugarh gives only 3 instead of 5 at last Conference. Besides reported churches there are many branches, or centres of work where the Gospel is regularly preached—a total gain of five churches from the reports that have come in.

Dr. Crozier’s plan of two years ago has worked so success-fully that he is able to report his work as self-supporting: “The Dispensary receipts last financial year a little more than covered all costs for medical stores, special repairs, assistants, student helpers and touring expenses.” And “medicine is kept on sale and to be given away to those in need but unable
to pay, in seven villages.” Dr. Crozier evidently believes that medicine often opens the way for the Gospel. Out-patients treated in 1903 were 3,391. In 1904—3,701.

Has not been at a standstill since last Conference. There seems to be an advance all along our line that fights ignorance. Tura station school reports an increase of 42 per cent. in attendance the last year. This seems specially significant in view of the statement that “the past year is the first in our history in which the mission has paid no stipends to boy pupils.”

We hope the offer of Government to defray the entire expenses of this school does not mean that the school will soon be governed from Shillong, and cease to be a strong factor for evangelization among the Garos. The well-written paper on—"The English Language as a means of Grace in Assam," introduced a subject of no ordinary interest in these days when some colleges are in part supported by widows’ mites from U.S., and send out graduates to work for the Indian Government in far greater numbers then they do to work for the salvation of souls.

Where are we to draw the line? When are we to draw the line? Are there any lines to be drawn, or shall we educate, educate first and last at all hazzards? Are there statistics to show that boys who graduate as non-Christian are later specially receptive of Gospel influences?

We regret that on some fields the village schools are not evangelistic.

The Garo Hills have two-thirds of our entire number of Church Members of our Mission in Assam, 7,511, they have 3,892. We believe in Sunday Schools much and work them a little. The Brahmaputra Valley Auxiliary to the Indian Sunday School Union, organized last year, has printed lessons in Assamse during the two years past, but the demand for these has been very limited. We hope to see this branch of our work flourish. The Sunday School is a good place for the Indian Christian to begin taking responsibilities, and responsibilities are bound to come to his shoulders.

Literary work has progressed considerably, especially in the hill-stations, whose people depend almost exclusively on missionaries for literature. Our Chief Commissioner has shown real interest
in getting some books for Hill Tribes; and Government is undertaking monographs of several of them which should be of great use to missionaries in coming years.


Rev. M. C. Mason.

The changes in our missionary force, since we met last have been less than usual; and while but few have been free from hindrances because of illness, and some have been seldom free from ailments, there has probably been no Conference period, when we have been so free of illness as that just closed. The only changes, other than those caused by time and toil, are first, the joining of our force by Mrs. Walter Mason, soon after meeting with us in our last Conference. I would add, that though she could not, of course, enter at once into vernacular mission work, she has from the first been able to do important work, which no other seemed able to do; and in general labours she has added not a little to the efficiency of our force. Mr. and Mrs. Dring have been able to return to us and enter at once, during the past year, with vigour into several kinds of work. Mrs. M. C. Mason, with two little ones, left in January last for furlough in America. And we rejoice that the Lord’s rich mercies have seemed to be ever with them. Although Mrs. Phillips has felt obliged to spend much of her time at the “Tura Sanitarium” on the mountain-top, she has been able to continue in usual strength. The labours of each will, in part at least, be mentioned, in noticing the different lines of work.

Mr. Phillips’s Report.

In reviewing the district work, it naturally falls under two heads, that of the Churches, and that of the Schools, not that the work of the churches and the schools are separated from each other. Many of our Christian communities have started with the Schools, and are, to a good degree, the result of our school work, and the schools are more and more demanded to help secure the full fruitage of Christian civilization. The head follows the heart, and the best School work must follow genuine evangelism.
In reviewing the churches, I would that I could report a sweeping, mastering work of grace throughout our field. Instead, I have still to report a lamentable degree of worldliness. There is a widespread spirit of trade among the Garos, and not less among the Christians than among the non-Christians. Indeed the very stimulus of the new life will show itself in increased activity in business. It will make men more diligent in business. So far so good, if the business spirit be thoroughly Christianized. Unfortunately, too many think that worldly business must be done in conformity with worldly practices. A rigid adherence to truth is not one of the characteristics of the worldly trade of this country. We long for the raising up of a community whose business men will be far more anxious for exact truthfulness than for gain. I fear there are too many who do not take this view. But I believe there are traders who in their dealings rigidly hold to truth.

Another stimulant to worldliness has been the large lawsuit that the Garos, under the leadership of one man, have been carrying on for more than two years, to try and get back the land between the Garo Hills and the Brahmaputra river. This has absorbed a large amount of thought, and a large sum of money, and has affected the Christians as well as non-Christians.

A serious feature in the work among the churches, and one pointing to a serious weakness, has been the lack of pastors. Some churches have suffered from the lack of good pastoral leadership. But while some have thus suffered, two others have been blessed in this respect, and are in a better Christian state in consequence.

The Derek church has thus been blessed. The pastor, Sujan, was serving as a faithful evangelist. For two years he has been doing good service as pastor, and the church seems to be in good condition.

During the past year Rev. Tokong has been doing good work at Rajasimla, our oldest church. A year ago the church was in so low a condition that they thought they could not support a pastor. Rev. Tokong told them that he intended to work for them, whether they called him or not. Soon after he began work among them, the work was much revived, converts were gathered and backsliders reclaimed. The church called him and now support him.
An encouraging feature of the work of the past year has been the increased activity in evangelistic work. There have been twelve evangelists supported by the churches and two by mission funds. Seven or eight of these have been supported by the women of the churches, with the proceeds of their handgrips of rice, although they have not all been supported by the collections of the past year. For several years there had been a scarcity of evangelists, and some funds have accumulated.

I regret that I cannot give the statistics for the year just closing. It seems next to impossible to get all our church statistics in promptly at the close of December. Our statistics at the close of last December, 1903, showed a membership of 3,887, organized into 16 churches, with many branch churches. Two hundred and eighty three were baptized last year, and the churches contributed for religious work Rs. 3,438. The churches, in addition to the twelve evangelists mentioned above, are continuing the support of their missionary to the Daphlas of Upper Assam, though not with the interest and enthusiasm we would wish to see. This work has much promise, but at the same time has suffered much from the reception, by parties not of our mission, of, so far as one can judge, unworthy and unconverted persons. This state of things causes us much anxiety for the future of this work.

The past two years have marked an increase of interest in our school work. There has been a considerable increase in the number of schools, and there has been an increase in the general interest in education. At present there are about one hundred of these evangelistic schools, all taught by Christian young men.

For the past two or more years, the demand for teachers has exceeded the supply, and it has been painful to have to refuse teachers to heathen villages begging for them. There is an increase of interest in the very interior. Several months ago one of the evangelists made a trip from beyond the Khasi frontier through the interior to the north of the Tura range around to Tura. He reported some six or eight large villages as desiring teachers.

Interest in education in the vicinity of Tura was increased by the example and help of a young man living some six miles from the station. He began by coming into our offices after
market on Saturdays, and asking the names of letters in the alphabet. In this way he soon learned to read and write in the Roman character. Then in the same way he took up the Bengali character, and is now actually trying in the same way to pick up English. Others saw his success and bought primers, and not a few have learned to read short words. He also has taught others, and near villages are asking for teachers. What is better is that together with this interest in education is manifest an increased interest in Christianity.

Government has given us an Upper Primary Scholarship examination, and two or three scholarships of three rupees per month for the most successful candidates, these scholarships being tenable in our Training School.

We are finding the pay of our village teachers of not more than Rs. 7 or 8 per month, too small to be an effectual incentive or attraction to the best teachers to stick to the work of teaching. We ought to grade the pay of our teachers more according to the efficiency of their work. We feel that the better teachers should have more, while it is difficult to reduce the pay much even of the poorer teachers, lest we lose them entirely. In order that we may raise the pay of the better teachers, without increasingly burdening Mission funds, we have asked Government to increase materially their grant to the village schools. The Chief Commissioner has directed our Deputy Commissioner to report on our schools, and nothing will be done towards an increase of grant until his report is received.

The increased interest in education is evinced in the willingness of the people to enable their sons or relatives to pursue elsewhere their studies. Three at least have thus been in Calcutta and some in Goalpara. This course is not the most promising, as there is danger of such being lost to our work. As the training School becomes established as a Middle English School, these may be better satisfied with what they get here.

In the matter of Training pastors, much less is being done than ought to be done. A workers' class for ten days has been held for the past two years, in which Dr. Crozier and Bro. Stephen have given much appreciated help, but much more is demanded. While there is not the deep spiritual life in the churches we would so much like to see, we feel that the district work is still full of much promise.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAPTISMS.</th>
<th>DAY SCHOOLS, 31ST MARCH.</th>
<th>SUNDAY SCHOOLS.</th>
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<tr>
<td>At the end of 1902 ...</td>
<td>3,524</td>
<td>2,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>During 1903 ...</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>127</td>
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<td>&quot; 1904 ...</td>
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Note.—As remarked above, it is impossible to give the church statistics for 1904, for this report.
The Station School.—Report by Mr. M. C. Mason.

In the station school work, which has been under my direction, we are still struggling with the problems mentioned in our last report. The changes undertaken as there mentioned, have entailed such an amount of labour, especially in the preparation of necessary books, that some important aims have been sadly neglected. While I have taught daily some of the classes, I have not been able to give the time to the school, which it most seriously needs. We still have to depend for teachers upon boys, Garo boys. And the supervision of their work has been less thorough than we could wish. Still I feel that progress has been made in some respects. The attendance has increased; in 1903 it reached 174; in 1904 it reached 247—an increase of 42 per cent. The average attendance was 117, in 1903, and in 1904 it was 165—an increase of over 41. The attendance would have been larger, had it not been for a disease, pronounced to be Beri Beri, on account of which many were sent to their homes.

Although we are still unsupplied with teachers for village schools, we are now sending out more men. Twenty-nine men have left the school during the past two years, of whom fifteen have taught school; four have entered other mission employ; one is studying in the Calcutta Boys’ School; one is employed by Government; one has a Government scholarship at the Assam Bengal railway shop at Jorhat, as carpenter; four are engaged in private work, mainly because we do not care for their services; and three have left school, but are not yet settled.

The expenses of the school have also been decreased. The past year is the first in our history in which the mission has paid no stipends to boy pupils. This fact, taken in connection with the increase in attendance, we feel to be indicative of real advance. The number of pupils supported independently of mission funds or mission effort has greatly increased: 11 to 15 boys have been aided by Government stipends and scholarships; 15 to 20 pupils have been employed more or less continually by missionaries; 10 to 40 students have received employment from the mission in doing work for the Government, and for the mission in building, repairs, and care of the compound.
Most of the missionaries have shared somewhat in the work of the school. Miss Bond has taught several classes daily, in addition to the care of the Girls' Boarding Department; I believe she has not lost a day during the past two years. Mr. Walter Mason has taught one or two classes much or most of the time during the past year, in addition to his language studies, which have enabled him to pass well his two examinations. He has also had charge of our Bookroom Department; that is, the care and sale of all books, of which there are scores of thousands, as well as the purchase of other books needed.

Mr. Dring taught one class in scripture for about two terms, besides his other heavy work of looking after and keeping the accounts of the compound work, and also the keeping of the village payroll. Dr. Crozier taught one class for about one term.

The Cotton Ginning Department has supplied work for a large number. Seventy-five boys, more or less, worked at different times at the ginning machines, being paid for this work by the amount of work done. The accounts show that during the past year about Rs. 1,200 were paid for the purchase of cotton, at my own risks; about Rs. 500 were paid for ginning, which with the shipping and other expenses brought the cost to about Rs. 1,773. The sales have amounted to about Rs. 2,135, leaving a profit to the department of about Rs. 392. We have ordered the purchase of a six-and-one-half horse-power engine for which Mr. Phillips advanced the money, and we are hoping to begin work this season with the engine; small boys and cripples will then be able to support themselves at this work.

I would mention that these gins have been quite extensively noticed, and we have made and sold at a small profit some machines to several parties; among them have been the Indian Government, ordered from Simla; the Bengal Government ordered from Calcutta and the Naga Hills Government; we have sent also to Cawnpore, Chittagong and Northern Bengal.

*Literature.*

On account of the changes mentioned in our last report, we have been obliged to give more attention to this branch of the work than usual. The substitution of the Roman for the Bengali
character brings before us two sets of readers—one able to read only the Bengali; the other able to read books printed in the Roman character only. Our monthly periodical, which has for some years past been under my supervision, both as to editing and subscription account, is probably the most affected by this change. Its subscription list is necessarily held down, so that we have only about 700 subscribers, and of course its usefulness is thus limited, although it reaches many unable to read it for themselves. We have encouraged the contribution of articles by natives, sometimes printing what we would not otherwise have printed, for the purpose of increasing the interest and stimulating thought, beyond that of echoing our own words. And we have felt encouraged by the apparent fruits of this work. When the Roman character readers surpass the other, we hope to see the circulation increase and to see the paper become a self-supporting periodical. The paper has entered its 24th year, and its third year in an enlarged form with an increased subscription-roll.

The printing of the Book of Genesis, with notes by myself, and the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark and John by Mr. Phillips and Luke by myself, 7,000 each, has been completed. Mr. Phillips has translated the Blakeislee's course of Sunday School lessons in the life of Christ, copies of which we hope to have for use this coming season. Dr. Crozier has been elected to give special attention to a more extended and systematic Sunday School Bible-study work. Mr. Phillips has Romanized, revised and printed a Primary Arithmetic, and Romanized and printed a mental arithmetic by Mrs. Phillips. Mr. Phillips has also translated and printed a small 32mo. Booklet, "Christ the Lord," which was furnished and printed by the Bible Society of Madras. He has also finished and printed at Government expense at Shillong, an outline grammar, and we have overhead copies enough for many generations.

I have given a good deal of attention to the preparation of an English-Garo Pronouncing Dictionary, for use in our schools. It is now in press at Shillong, being printed by Government. It is an octavo of about 175 pages and will define about 10,000 words, besides giving many derivatives. In this work Modhu drew up the foundation under my direction, and has aided continually since; Miss Bond also has helped very extensively. Indeed, the three of us have spent about two hours a day for months and months at this work,
aside from the other work done by myself and the proof reading, shared by others.

I have been able to get a good deal of help from the Lord Radstock free distribution, Queen Victoria Memorial Fund. I believe we gave away 50 copies of English Bibles and Testaments; 150 copies of Bengali Bibles and Gospels; 100 copies of Garo New Testaments and four hundred rupees worth of the four Gospels in Garo in the Roman character bound in one. We have 1,000 copies of these ready and hope to be able to give several hundred more, as soon as we can get a statement of costs from the Methodist Mission Press of Calcutta. I think I am justified in saying that, while we have had printing in hand at four presses, namely, Baptist Mission Press and Methodist Mission Press of Calcutta; the Government Press at Shillong and the help of the Methodist Press in Madras, and we have tried to push them, we have not been able to get the needed work done. I have now the Book of the Acts of the Apostles Romanized and slightly revised waiting for the printer.

**Miss Bond’s Report.**

There have been 27 girls in the boarding department at Tura during the past year, a larger number than at any former time, and quite an increase on the previous year. Nearly all were Christians at the beginning of the year, and the Baptism of three during the year completed the full number. We note a gradual improvement in the attitude both of the girls and their parents towards the matter of education. Formerly a large number of the girls came to school either to be supported, or to find husbands, and it was difficult to keep them for more than two, or perhaps three years. Now it is becoming quite the thing for them to look forward towards finishing the course in the station school, and this year four have actually completed it.

We are pleased to note also the beginnings of the development of a class spirit in the school, and a dawning of a feeling of comradeship between the boys and girls in their school relations. Formerly the all-engrossing thought of the girls, from the time when they began to think at all, was marriage. That now there are signs of this being superseded by a healthy interest in school pursuits is a cause of great rejoicing.
This is what we have hoped for from our experiment in co-
education, and though we have had to suffer long and have
patience, it seems as if our hopes are beginning to be justi-
fied.

**Dr. Crozier’s Report.**

The past two years have been marked by growth not so
much in numbers of patients treated
at the dispensary and work in the
homes of Garos and others as by a more general acceptance
throughout the hills of the opportunities offered by the Medi-
cal Department of the Mission. The number of recorded
patients and the number of calls and operations is much the
same as two years ago. The number of unrecorded patients
is considerably increased in the Garo Hills, Goalpara, and Kam-
rup Districts, and among the Daphlas. This increase in the
use of medicine in the regions where there are no trained
medical men is an encouraging feature of the work. It is
not only bringing life and comfort to many, but is opening
heathen hearts and regions to a more ready acceptance of
other truth introduced from without. It is definitely known
that many heathen are giving up their fear of evil spirits and
the sacrificing custom directly through this agency; and if
the heralds of peace and life eternal follow up the opportu-
nity thus given them, many will readily accept the teaching
concerning that which is not seen, but is no less real. The
work has given those connected with this branch of the
Mission many opportunities for carrying the gospel of love
to those who know not love.

It remains the fixed purpose that the work shall be self-
supporting (aside from the mission-
ary’s salary), giving freely and
sufficiently to all, both of medicine and service, without direct
compensation, but from most of those who are able expect-
ing cost or more in return for benefits received. How far
this has succeeded can be partially judged from the fact that
the dispensary receipts last financial year a little more than
covered all costs for medical stores, special repairs, assistants,
student helpers, and touring expenses, and for the coming
year requests for appropriations are nil.

Besides medicine taken directly from the dispensary by
individuals for use at Tura and in
the villages, and that supplied
V.P.P., medicine is kept on sale and to be given away to those
in need but unable to pay, in seven villages. One evangelist is furnished with medicine and a cooly to carry it and help to sell it the greater part of the time, another always carries and uses some, and the Garo Missionaries to the Daphlas are continually resupplied almost free of cost for use among the people there, and during the greater part of the cool season vacation, a student helper is sent out for six weeks as a medical evangelist, preaching, teaching and healing.

To supply the need throughout the hills for more intelligent and trustworthy and sympathetic helpers, several students of the Normal School are kept under training. These assist in the dispensary work and are thus given special direct experience in the preparation and use of the more common medicines, so that when they leave they are competent to treat a large majority of the sick in their own villages. In this way too the regular dispensary assistants are trained. All are given daily instruction in the practical side of medical work, and, so far as is possible in the available time, are led into some appreciation of the scientific basis of medical practice. There is very great need for such men, for the people do not yet realize that most of their ills could be avoided or cured. A child of five years lay prone in the dark house on the dirty floor. A mass of matted hair, pus and dirt covered all I could see of the head except a small portion of one side of the face. The abscess extended almost from ear to ear and from the nape of the neck to the middle of the top of the head. Filth had trickled down and destroyed both eyes. But there the child lay three or four months within half a day’s walk of Tura. In a cotton field near the same village lay a young man very sick eight days. As a Garo teacher and I at the urgent solicitation of the mother went and called on him he burst out crying at our unexpected visit, saying there was no one to take care of him and he had been very ill eight days. It was rejoicing to see the child improving at the last dressing and to hear later that the young man had recovered. After nearly a week’s work at one centre we were assured there were many more still in the fields and villages near by, and that it was the same all over the hills. For this work some young men are being trained and sent out, but obstacles are great and the Opposer is active.

One man of promise and influence among Christian leaders

Sorrow and Joy. had become able by three years' training to do most of the dispensary
work, but the allurement of sin was pleasant for a time. There is some hope of his repentance, but not much of his returning to the work for which he has become qualified. A student helper has felt the burden and without request or promise from me has taken up the responsibility with an earnestness and vigor most cheering.

Government has been awakened to the need of action concerning leprosy, and its investigations are now being pushed. A list made of all the lepers in the Garo Hills District, after allowing much discount for error, shows about 1 per cent. of the population now affected, and in the regions of greater prevalence in Goalpara District the Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon are just now making personal investigation. The work is not yet finished and approximate figures cannot be given with safety, but the outlook for improvement is encouraging.

To meet the needs of the work the method of touring in vogue has been changed. It is now my established custom to spend from a few days to a month in localities where the church specially needs quickening spiritually, and where the opportunities for medical work seem greatest, so far as possible preaching every night, treating the sick and selling medicine usually from dawn till dark, and attending to the correspondence work after the evening meetings. This method has been satisfactory in a number of localities. Demons and drinking, feasting and poverty, fashion and filth are great hindrances, but the power of active love is slowly moving the burden of sin.

**Statistical.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1903</th>
<th>1904</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total recorded out-patients</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>3,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; in-patients (treated in temporary hospitals.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of both</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>3,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>931</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 est.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Of this number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garos</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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<td>Of these—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teeth</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bal. widely distributed</td>
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Numbers not yet available.
Financial.

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>1903.</th>
<th>1904.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Receipts from sales, donations, etc.</td>
<td>Rs. 1,274 9 9</td>
<td>Rs. 1,253 14 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase of Medical stores</td>
<td>&quot; 1,722 10 9</td>
<td>&quot; 882 2 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>&quot; 700 0 0</td>
<td>&quot; 368 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid medical student helpers</td>
<td>&quot; 97 0 0</td>
<td>&quot; 48 0 0</td>
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</table>

The urgent need for a suitable building for the care of sick students and others has been recognized by all, so that Rs. 500 of dispensary funds has been set aside to purchase material for one ward of a permanent building for hospital and dispensary purposes. Of this sum Rs. 200 has been paid for timber and nearly Rs. 200 worth of other material has been ordered. It is hoped that the entire building may be secured in time, and thus save the bungalow for its intended purpose, and make it possible to care for some cases now seriously neglected.

While my sister rendered special and varied medical services to missionaries and natives during her visit at Tura, my sojourn at Impur for the last month covered by the report has given opportunity for the writing of some letters, papers and reports, some critical medical and surgical work, a number of abscesses and aching teeth, operations for ten blind people, miscellaneous medical cases twenty to forty daily, and the number is constantly increasing, so that I was obliged to send away without treatment to-day a crowd of people, forty or fifty, after having given several hours’ hard work to meet the needs of the people.

Report from the Dibrugarh Field.

Rev. C. E. Petrick.

During the year ending 1903, Mr. Paul was in charge of the mission work in the Dibrugarh district. In the beginning of April, 1904, Mr. Paul was transferred to North Lakhimpur. Since then I have had charge of the work in addition to my work
in the Sibsagar district. I have spent ten weeks in the Dibrugarh district. Several lines of railways in the district make touring work easier than in other districts. As most of the tea-gardens are near those railways, so is also the greater part of the population in easy reach from those lines of communication.

I have baptized 11 persons in two places, eight at Pekewijan and three at Samdeng. We have at present three churches in the district Pekewijan, Bisekoja and Samdeng. The first is a village church, the other two are in gardens. In both the garden churches work is not easy, time for services being limited even on Sundays. It is not likely that the work in either of these gardens will be permanent. Pekewijan is a village nearly 20 miles east of Dibrugarh. There we have a membership at present of 29, with great hope of more in the near future.

At Pekewijan we have the only school in the Dibrugarh district, and also the only Sunday-school. In connection with the school-work we had an interesting conversion of a young man, son of a Hindu. He was baptized in November, 1904. It is the only time, as far as I remember, that I felt very sad, when baptising a man. His father, a nice-looking man, stood near the water and wept quietly, believing he had lost his son. Before baptism he had come to me, and told me he was very unhappy, as I had taken his son. He could not see it in any other light.

I loved the man: he behaved so well in a situation, I could fully understand, must have been very trying to him. Next day I went to his house and spoke to him. He said he was not yet reconciled to the matter. All the relatives came to me afterwards. I took the occasion to speak to them about Him who is greater than Ram. In Dibrugarh town we have only three members, only one was baptized in Dibrugarh, the other two elsewhere. I do not think Dibrugarh is a town more fruitful for success in Mission work than other towns in Assam. We have also three members at Robong-Talap, and two at Abor-Pothar near Dibrugarh. In both places, Robong and Abor-Pothar, the Christians are Santals. Diba at Abor-Pothar was a member of a Baptist Church in Jamtara in the Santhal Parganas, and Charles Chuntu at Robong was formerly a Catholic. Both are excellent men, intelligent and sincere Christians.
Statistics of the Dibrugarh Field.

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Explanation.—The last annual report gives four churches for the Dibrugarh field. I suppose Dibrugarh is counted as a church. But at present there are only three members living in Dibrugarh, of whom one hardly should be counted; and the second is a student, so only temporary here. He will leave soon. So there is practically no church there.

Report from the Gauhati Field.

Rev. A. Judson Tuttle.

The Mission force on this field has changed somewhat since the last met. Mr. and Mrs. Burdette, Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle were on the field during the whole of the year 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Burdette left February 15th last on furlough. From that time until November of this year Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle were alone on the field. Miss Wilson returned to the field November 4th. Mr. and Mrs. Boggs also returned, but their residence in Gauhati is only a temporary one, Mr. Boggs directing his energies toward establishing the work in Jorhat. Mr. and Mrs. Jackman are with us for the coming year awaiting designation to their permanent field of labor.

The number of village schools is the same as two years ago.

The Work—1. School Work

A. In villages.

In one of the Christian villages the school has been abandoned on account of most of the people leaving the village, but in another a school has been opened. At the time of the last Conference a school, supported by the
contributions of the Christian women, was in session in a heathen village; this school was continued till the Spring of the present year, but was abandoned because of a lack of interest on the part of the villagers. In place of the closed school the women opened a school in another and much larger heathen village and placed a Christian teacher there. The enrolment of this school is large and there is promise that it will bear fruit in the salvation of souls. There has been a change in the text-books used in the village schools. Though in the Garo villages Garo is read in the lower classes, Assamese has been introduced in those schools in which it was not used, and the pandits have been supplied with the regular Lower Primary text-books. In addition to this drill is being taught. These things are giving an impetus to the secular school work. During the summer of 1903 our grant-in-aid was diminished by Rs. 5-0-0, owing to the discontinuance of the school above mentioned. I am glad to report that notice has recently come that this grant has been restored for another school. Besides this the Government has promised to equip our schools with maps, compasses, scales, etc.

The status of the village schools is the same as shown in the last report. The matter is so well stated there that it is needless to restate it here. I would only say that their work is threefold—(a) the edification of Christians, (b) secular and religious instruction of the children of Christians and heathen, (c) the evangelization of the heathen in the vicinity.

During the year 1903 the Station School was conducted as usual. As in former years the churches assisted by the missionaries kept three stipendiaries in the school and paid the salary of the native teacher. The school was in session four hours daily and the instruction was both secular and religious, two periods of each day being given to the Bible. During a part of the year one or two of the better educated Christians in the station taught in the school, giving their services gratuitously. During the year 1904 there has been no station school. Inasmuch as it appeared that the number of those able to attend the school would be less than formerly, the Christians considered it a matter of economy to pay the fees of four boys in the Government Middle Vernacular School. This was finally done with the provision that the boys live on the compound, be under the care of the missionary and study the Bible with him each day. The Christians were encouraged to adopt this plan as it is the
conviction of the missionaries that the Christians should avail themselves of what the Government is willing to do for them in the line of secular education. The plan proved quite successful so long as it was tried; the only objection to it in the mind of the writer is that it is not possible to devote as much time each day to the study of the Bible as he would like; this however, will find compensation in the fact that the course of study will cover a longer period than formerly. The plan has in its favor this, that it makes the Christians independent so far as secular education is concerned, which we believe to be a desirable thing. In addition to the stipendiaries supported by the villages, two boys were chosen by them to pursue the course in the Teachers’ Training Class in the Government Normal School. These boys receive Rs. 3-0-0 per month from the Government, are under the care of the missionary, and study the Bible with him the same as the other boys. One other boy is working his way and studying in the Private Entrance School in Gauhati.

The strictly religious work on the whole has made steady and healthy progress. During the past year one of the village churches has arranged to pay its pastor a monthly salary. In one or two of the villages for some years the spiritual condition of the people has been low. In two other villages where there lived a few Christians there has been a revival of interest in things spiritual. The removal of one of our best pandits to a section of the field, which is perhaps the weakest, has been a means of strengthening the work among both Christians and heathen in that section.

There has been a more marked advance in the station church. Shortly after the Conference of two years ago the church reorganized and since then has been maintaining regular services. These have been conducted all this time by Native Christians, the missionaries taking the services only when requested. The members have been active in evangelistic work. One or more has usually accompanied the missionary in his bazar work. One man showed special interest by accompanying the missionary on a three weeks’ tour on the north side early in the year. He rendered good service. The Christians have done and are doing independent evangelistic work also, some of them doing what they can for Christ while at their secular work, and then preaching, finding their recreation in the Gospel. Since August the
Church, with what help the missionaries gave, has been supporting one of their number as evangelist.

Bazar services have been held regularly, and during most of the time Bible-study with heathen Babus has been conducted by one or the other of the missionaries. This has resulted in some requests for baptism, but we have not wanted to administer the ordinance till we were assured that there had been a change of heart.

During the period under review touring has been done as usual among the Christian villages. The touring among the heathen has been done mostly on the North Bank. In the fall of 1903 Mr. Burdette, accompanied by Mr. Stephen, spent a few days in that part of the field. In the Spring of 1904, and again just before this Conference, Mr. Tuttle toured in that section.

Not as much interest is shown in Sunday Schools as we would like to see. However, Sunday Schools are conducted regularly in the station and in some of the villages.

Previous to Mr. Burdette’s departure the Press was running regularly. The Assamese Hymn Book was completed, some Christian tracts printed, and miscellaneous work done. Since his departure little has been done but print the S.S. Lessons in Assamese.

The progress made during the two years is encouraging, but we could reasonably have expected more but for the fact that during the greater part of this time only one missionary has been able to give himself exclusively to the work, for previous to Mr. Burdette’s departure, Mr. Tuttle devoted a large share of his time to language-study. Our force of native workers has been weakened by some of our Christians going to other fields. We could wish for a deeper interest on the part of our Christians in the evangelization of those about them, but we see signs of growth along this line both in the villages and in the station and feel that the time is not far distant when the influence of the Christian community will be felt throughout the district.
## STATION SCHOOL.

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## VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

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* It will be noted that the statistics given are for one year only; this is due to the fact that it is impossible to get the statistics for the year 1904 by the time they are required for the Conference Report.

A. F. T.
### GOALPARA REPORT.

**Church Statistics.**

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* It will be noted that the statistics given are for one year only; this is due to the fact that it is impossible to get the statistics for the year 1904 by the time they are required for the Conference Report.

### Report from the Goalpara Field.

**Rev. A. E. Stephen.**

During the two years under review the workers on this field have been A. E. Stephen, Mrs. Stephen, one village school-teacher, and for about four months one Bengali Evangelist.

The work done has been the same as in former years, with this difference that I have preached the Gospel to all, without respect to tribe or class.

I brought out a Magic Lantern from England and have found it a great help in the village work. The pictures attract the people, and through them I have been enabled to make plain their need and God’s rich provision. Many have heard the Gospel who, but for the pictures, would probably not have come near to listen. During the touring season of 1903 I was accompanied by Dadu Sangma who studied some time in the Goalpara Government High School, and while living on the mission compound received Bible instruction from me. It was his first season in evangelistic work, and he helped me not a little in telling Rabhas and Garos of the Saviour’s love.

As far as we can see there is little sign yet of any spiritual unrest among the Rabhas. They seem to think that Christianity is
only another caste, and for the most part are content as they are. They would like to have schools in their villages, if they can have a teacher without much trouble or expense to themselves, and also think the teacher is very useful in helping them to fight their battles with the Babus, but as a help to teaching them in things spiritual they do not desire him.

A Garo village about four miles from Goalpara has been asking me to send them a teacher.

**Call from a Garo Village.** This village has been our main source of supply for thatch all the years we have been in Goalpara. Until this past year they have been as indifferent as the ordinary heathen, but now seem to be very much interested. I spent four nights in their village in November and when I was ready to come away they invited me to return, and told me to be sure and send them a teacher and they would become Christians. A few seem to be very tender and I believe will accept Christ soon.

The months in which touring among the villages cannot be done, has been spent in various ways in the station. A shop was rented for a threefold purpose, *i.e.*, Sunday School, Evangelistic work, and selling Gospels. A number of children were gathered in and heard about the Friend and Saviour of children. They learned to sing one hymn, "What can wash away my stain" in Bengali, very nicely.

Last cold season when I went in camp the school had to be closed, and at the end of the touring season I could not induce them to come together again. One little fellow when asked why he did not come, said, "I am not to be a Christian." When I could not get the children to come inside, I started another School under a tree by the roadside, in another part of the town; this I have continued all through the hot season and rains, and a good many children and adults have seen the S.S. Pictures and have learned something of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The usual Lord’s Day services have been held morning and evening on the hill-top, also the weekly prayer-meeting, which has been attended principally by Christian Garos, who are in the station on business, our servants and five Garo boys who are attending the Government High School and are living on the mission compound. These meetings have been seasons of blessing to those who have attended and taken part. Those
attending the morning service have contributed their mite which amounted to Rs. 11:7:9, for the two years, and which has been used in buying Tracts for distribution, and Hymn Books.

The open-air meetings held in various parts of the town have been continued; the audiences vary considerably, also the interest. In this work I had hoped for considerable help from Nishi Kanta Dey the Evangelist, but owing to lack of funds his services could only be retained for a few months; since he left, I have been without an Evangelist.

From the beginning of May, 1903, until April, 1904, I visited Dhubri once a month, staying over one Lord's Day. I preached in the bazar, and had a service in the Circuit House on Sunday morning for Europeans, and in the evening, had a meeting, for all who would come, in Bigini Hall which was loaned free of charge by the Hall Committee. I gave a series of Gospel addresses which I trust enabled many to understand "What the Gospel of the Grace of God is." As a result of those meetings one young man, a Bhramin, professed to accept Christ, but has not come out to be baptized. Several met with me while others wrote telling me of their heart's unrest and difficulties. A friend defrayed the travelling expenses for this work.

One village school has been open 13 months. Peta Marak left in April, 1903, for Government work, and the school was closed until March, 1904, when Dadu Sangma went as teacher. There are twenty names on the roll and the attendance has been good. Some of the young men have confessed they would like to be Christians, but have taken no definite stand for Christ. The teacher has done some evangelistic work among the neighbouring villages.

Bengali and English books have been sold, including Bibles, New Testaments, Gospels, etc., amounting to Rs. 69:10:3 for the two years. During the past year I have had a supply of Garo books from Tura and of those have sold Rs. 32:4.

Another branch of service which has been enlarged during the last year is the sale of medicines. From Dr. Crozier I have received supplies of various kinds, for the more common diseases, and have sold in all Rs. 95:5. This service has brought me into contact with some, who otherwise might have kept
away, and has given me an opportunity to give a tract or speak about the Great Physician.
Three new hymns have been translated into Rangdania Rabha, making eleven in all.
There has been much done, and to human sight the results are meagre, but we leave it with Him who says, "My word shall not return unto me void." The Lord sent us, He has been with us, and we believe He will accomplish his own will and purpose in this field.

Report from the Golaghat Field.
Rev. O. L. Swanson.

At the time of the last Conference this field was in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Paul. This district being fortunate in having experienced missionaries in charge during our absence, as at this time, the rival missions were doing their utmost by enticing our Churches to join them. The writer with his wife returned from furlough in September 1903, when the work was taken over by them.

It is needless to say, that your Missionaries were glad to be back and were welcomed by Christians and heathen.
The work of one year and three months has, by the help of God, been carried out very nearly in the same routine as in former years.

With the more comfortable way of travelling, i.e., in the "Gospel wagon" I have been able with native preachers to visit more villages, markets and tea-gardens, than in any previous year. We have preached, sold Gospels and distributed tracts by many thousands. It may be asked, what is the result of such work? True, we have not seen immediate results, nor heard men and women cry "What must I do to be saved?" Yet there are signs of the working of the Spirit in the hearts of the people. A few instances have come to our notice. A man who heard the Gospel for the first time at one of our Bazaar meetings, went home and pondered the words he had heard. Finding no relief but thirsting to know more, he sought one of our preachers and bought a Gospel from him. The result of this was, that a year after, he came of his own accord and asked for baptism. At another place we had Magic Lantern preaching. Months afterwards a couple of
our workers returned to this place and found some people in
the village believers in the Lord. They confessed that their
faith in their old religion had been shattered from that night.
One day when the Assamese Associational evangelist with
one of my preachers returned from a tour, I was glad to
hear him say that in every village they entered, Gospels
were found, which had been purchased at the markets.
Some villages received them gladly; others said, they knew all
about it, but had no desire to accept the Message.

Two new Churches have been added, making the total
fourteen; while there are from six
to seven places where services are
held at times. But as they are somewhat irregular can
hardly be called Churches. All Churches are self-supporting
in one sense, i.e., they pay their pastors, who are generally of
their own number and are able to read. But the pay is very
small, so he can hardly be called a supported man of the church.
Then also the weaker Churches are constantly visited by the
Evangelists, without whose instruction I fear some of them
could hardly exist.

Five new Church buildings have been built, three by the
Churches, two by planters, they bearing the entire expense.

Some of the Churches have done well in helping to support
the work of the Association. It grieves us sometimes to see
that there is such a slow growth in the spiritual life, yet con-
sidering the rock out of which they are hewn, we are probably
expecting too much, for we know, that in many cases the
wonderful grace of God has been manifested.

The Station School has continued uninterruptedly. The
attendance has at no time been large.

Hindus fear.

For the past year one of the reasons
is, that the heathen children have all left, because of their
parents fearing they would become Christians. Their fears
in this respect are not without foundations as two Hindu boys
have come out on the Lord’s side and been baptized. To this
can be added one Mikir boy, so the chief object of the school
has not failed in being an evangelistic agency.

There are only three village schools for the present. The
school among the Garos has not been
a success. It has been in session at
times; the pundit is transferred to another place where the
work is more hopeful.

One of the Hindu young men that became a Christian, in
our school, started one in his own village, with the hope, that
he in this way could win the people of the village for Christ. This was kept up for nearly two years, but has recently been closed. It was not so much the parents themselves, as the pressure brought to bear upon them by neighbouring villages that caused them to refuse to have their children taught Christianity.


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Report from the Impur Field.

Dr. E. W. Clark.

From a home furlough I arrived in Assam 1st January, 1904. Since then I have revised the Ao Gospels of Matthew and John, and they are in the printer's hands for reprinting. A Life of Joseph compiled from the Bible has been used as a reader in our Ao schools. This book was prepared and printed in Ao in 1884. The revision of this is in progress and will soon be sent to the press for reprinting.

The manuscript books of the Ao Naga-English Dictionary had the misfortune, at the time of the Venice disaster, to be soaked in Hoogly brine for three days or so, but I am thankful to say, that much the larger portion came out legible, but in places a few words on a page and in places many words have to be re-written. In the earlier books, this work
accompanied by some revision has been completed and I hope to begin the printing in the coming year. I have also done some evangelistic touring.


I had hoped that Dr. Clark and Brother Dowd would make all reports, but they seem to think that I should make part.

So first of all let me again call your attention to the field itself. Impur is 59 miles from the plain if one travels by Mokokchung. It is about the same distance, in the other three directions from the natural boundaries of our field.

A glance at the map of this field will show that the Naga work is unique in several particulars.

1. The high mountains and deep valleys—the great contrast in elevations in a short distance is very marked.

2. The Naga villages are far apart. Some of them are large—three Ao villages have between 600 and 700 houses. This is an advantage and yet a very great disadvantage.

3. Another look at the map reveals also that this field is made up of at least seven different tribes each with a totally different language which shuts it within its own particular territory and away from the others.

4. This is a frontier work and the missionary force is far from any base of supplies. On account of the environment the field is extremely difficult to cover and the expense is of necessity very great in proportion to the size of the territory and the population, and the results are relatively slow in coming.

These things must be constantly kept in mind or the Naga work will neither be understood or appreciated. If your mind fails to see the lofty mountains, the yawning valleys, the peaks crowned with villages and almost every village with a dialect all its own, and these making up our South Eastern frontier, you will completely fail to grasp the needs of our field and what position it should occupy in our mission.

One other fact should also be remembered with these others: namely, that till 1893 this field had only one missionary and that a good portion of the time since 1893 has been spent in founding a new station. Personally I do not feel that I have had much real experience in the kind of mission work we are supposed to be called to do. My time has always been spent
in doing something else. Let it be known that it is no light task to found a station away off in the jungle fifty miles on the other side of nowhere.

Note also that the people are very scattered, and that too in a country of almost Alpine ruggedness. Will it pay to spend so much in men and means on them when vast populations are to be found very accessible and easily reached? That depends entirely on your view point. Personally I believe that Assam is strategic, not because of the Bengali or Assamese or Kol populations but because of the Mongolian people bordering the Brahmaputra valley. I believe our chief effort should be to reach those peoples which by virtue of their position form the human heart of Asia. In the providence of God our Mission is like an Evangelical arm to reach and save the peoples occupying the highlands of Asia. The Naga mission must not, then, be looked at as simply of and for the Nagas, but rather as a part of a great system to reach the Mongolian peoples of Asia. Viewed from this standpoint any reasonable sum spent on the Naga work will pay. Viewed from the standpoint usually taken by missionaries, and I think we better go to and confine ourselves to the so-called centres of influence where the population is vast and accessible. The Naga mission is chiefly valuable because of its position and what it is potentially in relation to the whole Mongolian race.

To show you what I mean let me state that we are beginning to reach each and every tribe having a part in the Impur field; and it will not be many years before these tribes will begin to reach the peoples touching them on the South and East. And so the work will go on, and on. At present we probably have converts from every one of these tribes, and if the work could be pushed they would be won rapidly. As it is, we will have to content ourselves with slow progress—the many dialects and difficulties of communication will limit our efforts and the results. But future progress will be with ever-increasing momentum.

We still have great hopes of Lungsa. Lungsa is, for the most part, an Ao village, but it is really out of Ao territory and in the Sangemter country. It has upwards of 700 houses and its large and mixed population settled down away across the Dicku River make it a most desirable point to take and hold for the Master. We have two men there and the work is proceeding most favorably.
At Lunkum, the most influential village among the Aos, the prospect is also as hopeful as can be desired. In spite of severe persecutions the church and school are growing nicely. The results at Lunkum are having a decided influence on the whole tribe.

The Lota is perhaps the most encouraging part of our work. Of course it is still in the first stages and not yet beyond the day of small things, but it promises great things. Lota boys have been drawn from every part of that tribe for the Training School. Of these a goodly number have become Christians so that we have, as you will see by the map, these witnesses in almost every section of the Lota country. A few girls have been induced to attend the Impur School. These are the very first from among the Lotas, and we count ourselves fortunate to have succeeded at this early day in getting hold of any, for the Lotas are very choice of their girls and refuse to let them go away from their villages as they expect to receive a large sum for them in marriage. The past year a fairly strong church has been built up at Okotsa. This village is near Pangti, the largest Lota village, which we hope to reach through the Okotsa church. A very good man is teacher here and gives excellent promise. The Lota youth especially please us. They make better servants than the Aos and better students and more stalwart Christians. The past year the Lota boys caused no scandal and the Ao boys did, we are sorry to say.

I wish to make special mention of the growth in grace and in the knowledge of God some of our Christians have made during the past year. Considering the weaknesses and rottenness surrounding them, their attainments are well worthy of special record. Samar the pastor at Molung is fast developing into a very spiritual leader and a preacher of remarkable power and eloquence. Beni, a young man some of you are acquainted with, has shown great growth in all lines, and three of our Lota boys have shown character of no mean order. We are hopeful that if we can get these with a constituency so very small that the results will be proportionately greater when our constituency is larger.

I think all who work in the hills will agree with me when I say that with hillmen no mode of missions can compare

8
with education. Through schools the Gospel is made to reach the mountaineers more rapidly and permanently than by any other means. The importance of school work, then, among the hill tribes, cannot be over-estimated. We have therefore made school work a specialty. We have depended upon our Training School in a peculiar way and have not found it wanting.

On returning from furlough I found the Government greatly interested in education, whereas formerly it seemed decidedly lukewarm. Naga school books were especially desired by Government, so it seemed best that an attempt should be made by us to supply the need. It fell to my lot to do this, and I have prepared, by means of panduits, Primers and Arithmetics in Ao, Lota, Sema and Mozunger Naga, also an English-Lota Vocabulary and the Gospel of Matthew in Lota. The manuscripts of all these have gone to Shillong; the Government has passed part of them and part of them are now in press. We have been assured by our Naga Hill officials that they will all be approved though, of course, that remains to be seen. Mr. Reid our D.C. was kind enough to write some very strong commendations of this work, and so we are hoping that the manuscripts sent in will all be sanctioned in due time.

At the advice of Dr. Clark, Bro. Moore and others I have gone to Calcutta to see as many of these books through the press as possible, before leaving for America. Of course it goes without saying that I have not mastered the Lota, Sema and Mozunger languages, and so this work will have the defects common to all work done in this way through panduits. We however hope that the beginnings in these languages will make good bases on which to build better and more permanent educational structures and that these books will prove of real worth to these peoples.
Impur Church Statistics.

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The past two years in the Impur schools have seen no very startling changes but a steady development along all lines.
The station school has increased but little in numbers, but each year there has been an increasing proportion of boys and girls pursuing the more advanced studies and hence a better prospect of securing what the school is designed to produce—trained teachers and preachers.

Some changes in general plans of work have been made among which are—(1) the dropping of Assamese as a second language and giving the place entirely to English; and (2) the lengthening of the regular term of school from six to nine months and a considerable increase in the daily hours of study. Both these changes, we feel, are justified by the results; for there is a marked improvement in the progress of all, together with greatly increased interest in the more advanced work. Formerly it was difficult to hold the pupils for more than two or three years; now it is hard to persuade some of the older boys to leave for outside work.

The two regular teachers Bennie and Levi, have done faithful work and have shown commendable interest by taking up special work under the missionaries in order to keep ahead of the advancing pupils. Mr. and Mrs. Perrine have helped greatly in the teaching and Mrs. Perrine has had entire charge of the girls outside of school hours.

But with all this help we have had to depend to a considerable extent on pupil teaching, several of the older boys and girls having taught one or two classes each. This, however, has not been wholly a detriment to the school, for their work has been supervised by the missionary and they have gained valuable experience and training.

The proportion of Lhota pupils has not changed greatly since last Conference. A few Semas have attended for short periods of time but without much apparent results. They do not care to study Ao, and English is a pretty big contract for a boy who has never seen a letter of the alphabet in any language.

This difficulty will, we think, be done away now that we are to have books in both these languages as the result of Mr. Perrine’s steady work for more than a year. Two reading books and an arithmetic in each language will both furnish a good introduction to school work and make a good start for anyone who may have the opportunity to give these people the Scriptures in their own tongues. Mr. Perrine has also given us a new reader and a more advanced arithmetic in the
Ao language, both of which will be of the greatest help in all our school work.

Our village schools have gained 50% in enrolment during the past year and doubled in average attendance. An equal improvement is visible also in the quality of the work done. This is due partly to an increased Government grant, partly to the helpful influence of our Sub-Divisional Officer, and largely to an increasing desire for education among the Nagas themselves. Several boys with fairly good preparation have entered the training school this year from the village schools, and this is what we have long been desiring to see.

On the moral and religious side of our work we have met with some bitter disappointments. A few in whom we had placed the greatest confidence have fallen into sin or committed grave indiscretion, and a few have been restive under the restraints of school life. But in the main the moral tone has been good and several of our most promising boys and girls have turned to Christ.

We feel that no education will ever be successful among these wild people that is not based on the most rigid morality and a strong, living spirituality. Hence with all our efforts to raise the intellectual standard it is ever our chief aim to present Jesus Christ as the source of all true knowledge as well as the only fountain of moral and spiritual life.

Report from the Tika Field.

Rev. J. M. Carvell.

At our last Conference three missionaries were on the field.

Since January, 1903, Mrs. P. E. Moore has been invalided from the work. The severity of Mrs. Moore's illness has necessitated Mr. Moore's being almost constantly with her. However, in spite of suffering, Mr. and Mrs. Moore have so planned, that it has been possible for Mr. Moore to spend about two months each year touring in Mikir land, preaching the Words of Life in one of the very needy parts of our field.

March 1st, 1904, Mrs. Carvell returned from furlough.

At present there are two missionaries on the field.
During the past two years there have been maintained regular Sabbath services in the Chapel at Tika, with an attendance ranging from 10 to 40. There has been also one Sabbath School at Tika. The Sabbath services have been conducted by missionaries and native brethren.

There have been no paid evangelists employed in the Mikir work.

The desire on the part of Native Christians to witness for the Master has grown; much personal work has been done by them.

The spirit of prayer has been manifest on the part of some of the Christians, with the result of a deeper, spiritual life.

The Mikirs give to the Lord more liberally than in former years. Some have really seemed to give because they loved the Lord.

The work among the coolies on Borpane Tea Estate has been blest of God during the past two years; a goodly number have professed conversion. The encouraging part of that work is that the Christians have been largely used of the Spirit in leading their fellow-men to Christ.

On what we call the Mikir field, we have been privileged to baptize, within the past two years, five Mikirs, one Assamese, sixteen Garos, and eighteen Bengalis.

In the line of literary work, and printing, some progress has been made. There has been printed the "Mikir Primer," "Second Reader," and "Primary Arithmetic," "The Glad Tidings," "Mikir Hymn Book," "Story of Creation and Fall of Man."

The Mikir First Catechism is now going through the Press. In addition to the above-named books we have been able to edit and print a little paper called *The Birta*. It started out as a four-page paper, and has grown into six pages. All matter that would usually be put in leaflets is included in this monthly paper. *The Birta* has done much to stimulate interest among those that have attempted to learn to read.

One encouraging thing connected with the creation of literature for the Mikirs is the printing of the First Catechism by Mikir Christians. They have pledged themselves for the full cost of printing. They also plan to sell the Catechism.

A translation of the Gospel of Mathew has been completed
and once revised, and a start has been made in the translation of the Pilgrim’s Progress. The compilation of a Mikir Third Reader has also been commenced.

The work of education among the Mikirs has made some progress. The Government of Assam has shown real interest in the lower branches of education, also in the equipment of teachers for village schools. The establishing of a larger number of schools has been encouraged, and their support promised. For the equipment of teachers, five stipends of Rs. 4 each have been granted, also the salary of one teacher for the instruction of teachers in the Tika school has been granted.

There have been in existence four Mikir schools south of the Kopli River, and five on the north side of the Kopli. The number of pupils in these schools has ranged all the way from six to twenty pupils each.

During the past two years there has been much planned antagonism towards Christianity, on the part of the older men; this has been doubtless caused by our growing influence with the young people.

In spite of the fact that our co-labourers have been taken from us during the last two years, by what to us seems a strange providence, there has been much to encourage in the Mikir work.

Report from the North Lakhimpur Field.


The changes on this field since the last Conference, have been more numerous than those during any similar period in the history of the Lakhimpur work. Mr. Firth, after a period of nine full years of uninterrupted service, left for home in January 1903, when the sole care of the district and station fell to the lot of Mr. Dickson, who remained in charge until Mrs. Dickson’s health became so poor as to demand a transfer to another station. On the 12th April, 1904, Mr. Paul took over the work from Mr. Dickson, having moved from Dibrugarh on account of Mr. and Mrs. Dickson’s transfer.

The last words of Mr. Firth’s brief report to this Conference in 1902, were gloomy and discouraging, though I believe they accurately portrayed the condition of things as they then
stood. The history of the work since that time may be briefly told. Mr. Dickson did all he could to encourage the churches to forget the things past and to take on new life from above; to send their boys to school; to raise money for the support of a preacher whose whole time should be given to preaching the gospel to the heathen. The few brief months which Mr. and Mrs. Dickson spent on this field, though months of great trial and disappointment to themselves, were months of exceedingly critical time for the people, and had they not been there to guide and help the churches, it is almost certain that the cause of the A.B.M.U. would have been a lost one in nearly the whole field. Mr. Dickson could not, of course, with an imperfect knowledge of the people and language, and with constant sickness, do what we call evangelistic work; hence during 1903 there were comparatively few additions by baptism.

In January, 1904, Mr. Paul and the Upper Assam Association preacher made a tour in the North Lakhimpur district, but this was wholly amongst the Miris on the Subansiri river. During this trip many villages heard the gospel, and at one place very close upon a thousand Miris gathered to hear the old, old story as told by means of a magic-lantern. They received us gladly, thanked us for our medical work in the form of a sack of rice, and left us reluctantly, begging us to come again.

During the present year we have made three tours in the Darrang district, and several shorter ones in the Lakhimpur field proper. On all these tours we have visited villages, markets, road-side gatherings, gardeus, &c., where the gospel has been preached, books sold, tracts, &c., distributed, enquiries answered, and whatever else could be done to spread a knowledge of the Kingdom of God.

The churches have been visited several times, when the Lord’s Supper has been administered, new converts baptized, and at least some instruction imparted. During these visits I have been made painfully aware of the gross ignorance of the people and their discouraging contentment therewith. But we expect better days now that the station school is much better attended, and two young men are attending the Bible-school from this field.

Through Mr. Dickson’s initiative the station school has been greatly improved and the attendance increased. The station Sunday School, which alas is the only one in the district, is doing
a splendid work in filling young minds with a knowledge of the Word of God. The whole school, during the summer months, has gone with the missionary to near-by markets where the singing of the boys has attracted a large number of people who, when thus gathered, have heard the joyful sound. Several of our near-by churches too have been much helped by a visit from the school, when the singing and reading by the boys have given the older people, in a practical way, an idea of what their boys are learning.

Were ignorance alone the fact that the Lakhimpur churches are the most backward ones in Upper Assam, the discouraging feature of the work here, we could look with more confident hope to a bright and cloudless sky than we do when we remember that about 25 per cent. of our people are forbidden the Lord's Supper on account of the opium habit.

An important meeting was held in November at which all the churches concerned were well represented. At this meeting it was frankly confessed that in the past both the preachers and the churches had deceived the missionaries as to the character of many of those who were presented as candidates for baptism, and that as a result a large number of men and women had been admitted to church-membership while continuing the use of opium. This is sad. But an open confession of the sin is a true sign that God is in our midst, and that better times are coming. At this meeting too a firm stand was taken, and a determination expressed to deal promptly with this terrible curse in our churches—(1) by positively refusing to consider for a moment as a candidate for baptism any person who is not perfectly free from the use of opium; (2) that any member of a church who is now using opium be kindly, but very firmly, warned that if he or she does not give the clearest proofs of having given up the habit in three months after warning has been given, he be excluded by the native brethren without waiting for a missionary; (3) that any person so giving evidence of his sincerity and true repentance be received with confidence and joy.

In this very unpleasant duty I am receiving very great and very highly appreciated help from our brother Manmasi, who at the meeting above referred to, was chosen to baptize and administer the Lord's Supper, and to go from church to church teaching the way of Life, and to carry out God's command to Moses when he said, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." This brother has been wonderfully helped
by Bro. Moore at the Bible-school, and will return there when
the school reopens.

Our work in the Darrang district has been carried on at
a disadvantage; first because the
distance from a resident missionary
is too great for him to know as much about the people as he
ought, and too expensive for our Society in proportion to its
present importance.

All but one of the gardens have been closed to our work
since before Mr. Dickson left last
year. There are two places where
the people seem to be glad of our coming. One of these is
Kolapain where I have baptized 16 people during the past few
months, and Karigaraz village to which some people have come
from the Sibsagar district, and where I have since last May
baptized 12 persons. The most discouraging thing in this dis-
trict is the large number of people who have come into the
country with Christian names and heathen hearts. They may
be described as drunken beggars with a very false notion of
what Christianity really is. A mission, to them, is a golden
cow which must be milked lest she die.

In both these districts much medicine has been used, and
I find it a means of reaching the
people who would not otherwise lis-
ten. The Christians too have had their usual share of medi-
cines. They have been encouraged to pay for them, which
some have done.

In these two districts during 1903, 35 were baptized; during
1904, 80 were baptized up to the
22nd of this month. For all God's
favors we thank Him, and move on to greater things, work-
ing amongst all classes.
### NORTH LAKHIMPUR.

**Statistics for Conference Report, 1903-4.**

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\* Statistics of 1902 except baptisms.\*
Report from the Nowgong Field.

Rev. P. H. Moore.

[Not including any report of work in the Mikir Department, but including in the statistics the Christians (Baptists) of the whole District.]

Three Mission families and two single ladies make up the normal Mission staff for this field, including the Mikir Department. Of these, one family (Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Moore) and one single lady (Miss A. E. Long) have been on the Assamese portion of the field during the whole period under review, except that Miss Long spent a few weeks in Darjeeling in the autumn of 1903. On account of the ill-health of his wife Rev. Penn E. Moore has had only about four months among the Mikirs since our last Conference, it being necessary for him to accompany her to Almora, and remain with her there most of the time.

Rev. J. M. Carvell has been on his field among the Mikirs continuously during the two years; and Mrs. Carvell and little Master Douglas, who were at home in England during 1903, joined him in March, 1904, and since then have been with him at Tika.

Miss E. G. Miller who just arrived at Nowgong in December 1902, was at her post until October, 1903, when ill-health led her to try a change to Darjeeling. She was again at work in Nowgong about four months, December to March, in the cool season of 1903-04. But being unable to throw off her low fever, she again went to Darjeeling in April, 1904, and we are very sorry to say, has not yet been able to resume her mission work at Nowgong. This ill-health has seriously crippled our work in this field both in the plains and among the Mikirs.

The usual Evangelistic touring to villages, markets, schools and Churches has been the principal cool season work during the past two years; though the extensive periodic repairs and rethatching of Mission houses has interfered with my part of that touring this cool season up to date.

The Mission Treasury, Reference Committee, Property Committee, and Bible School Committee work have also filled in many chinks of my time.
The Assam Valley Bible School, holding its sessions from April to September inclusive, has been the outstanding feature of my summer work both during 1903 and 1904. I was reluctant to undertake this work, both because of conscious unfitness for the high calling of a teacher, and because in the midst of other duties I could not give it the time I felt it needed. But the alternative seemed to be either that I must temporarily take up the work, or the opening of the school must be postponed.

God has graciously given health and strength, and I have given four to five hours daily to the Bible School classes. The attendance has been small, as was expected. For the session of 1903, there was one class of three pupils,—one young man each from the Sibsagar, Golaghat and Nowgong fields. For the session of 1904, these three returned, and two others came from North Lakhimpur. Also several women and girls from Nowgong attended the classes during part of this last session. Two hours were given in the forenoon to lessons in the New Testament, and two hours in the afternoon to Old Testament study. From 10 to 30 minutes were usually devoted each morning, to the practice of singing Assamese Hymns before the Scripture lesson hour. During the summer of 1904, I had the assistance of Babu Henry Goldsmith for three hours daily, he taking one of the classes during the hours that I had with the other classes. I have had much of personal blessing in the study of God's Word with these classes. But all the time there has been the dissatisfaction that one feels with work that he cannot do thoroughly well. Besides this Bible School work has been done at considerable sacrifice of time that normally belonged to my work for the Nowgong field. So I shall be gladly relieved when the Committee to which this Bible School project was committed can complete more suitable arrangements that have been planned for it. I greatly rejoice that Brother Boggs has returned to Assam specially designated for this great and greatly-needed work, and bespeak for him the prayers and hearty co-operation of all in it.

Miss A. E. Long and Miss E. G. Miller have been in charge of this Department during the two years under review. The study of the Assamese language has been a large item in the work of both of them, Miss Long rightly
continuing her regular study of the vernacular, after passing both the prescribed examinations in it. Miss Miller began the study of Assamese in a thorough way and made good progress, but ill-health, which we have all very deeply regretted, cut short her study, and her physicians have not permitted her to resume it.

During 1904, Miss Long with the assistance of her Pundit Babu Henry Goldsmith, has prepared the comments on the Sunday School Lessons, that have been printed on the Sunday School Leaflets. An unusual amount of illness among the girls in the Boarding Department under the care of these ladies has greatly added to the tax on their health and strength. The Girls' Boarding Department is an incessant care to whoever has the responsibility for it, and a daily share of attention must be given to it. By the kindness of the "Women's Society of the West" a new iron dormitory has been provided last year, and we now have a substantial building that will comfortably accommodate 20 girls, and a good matron to take immediate oversight, under the supervision of the lady missionaries. The spiritual aim of the work is kept in the foreground and a wholesome influence pervades the school. Several of the girls are orphans, knowing no care but that of the Mission. Four have been baptized from the Boarding Department since our last Conference reports.

One Biblewoman, and an assistant to accompany her, have been employed during the two years as hitherto. Miss Long has given much time to regular Bible instruction among the women and children; and the Biblewoman has learned from her and then taken the lessons on to others. She has also given one evening a week to Bible lessons with a class of boys and young men. Moreover she has inaugurated Junior Christian Endeavour work, and hopes for much development for service among the young people.

A new feature of Miss Long's work, taken up this year, extends it to the women in the village churches. After the Annual Association of the Nowgong churches at the end of February, 1904, she took the Biblewoman and spent about a week with each of three village churches, thus getting acquainted, and learning who among the women in the villages could read the Bible and seemed fitted for Christian work. She induced
five of these women to come to the station during the month of April for Bible-study, and arranged for the Association evangelist, Probhu Dyal, to teach in Hindi, the four who could read in that language. Miss Long taught the lessons in the Gospel by John to the evangelist in Assamese, and he passed them on to the women in Hindi. At the end of April the women returned to their respective villages, with instruction to teach the women there what they had learned in the station. In November Miss Long made another tour of the same village churches, and was much gratified to find that women’s meetings had been held weekly in all of them, and that a number of women in each village could repeat several scripture verses that had been taught them in these meetings. Also that regular contributions had been taken which aggregated about Rs. 25, from the four churches including the station. There is urgent need for continuance and extension of this sort of work, and Miss Long hopes to persevere in it, as time and strength permit.

Mrs. P. H. Moore has continued her teaching by the wayside and in native houses as before, being often accompanied by either Miss Long or Miss Miller in this work.

In literary work she has seen through the Press her revised edition of “Line upon Line,” Part I, and has translated and gotten nearly ready for the Press her sixth little book entitled—“Peep of Day,” Part II. This she hopes to print in 1905.

The accompanying tables of statistics show what we have been doing in our Mission schools. The Nowgong Mission Girls’ School has continued its good work uninterruptedly under Miss Long’s superintendence, but there are no new features to report calling for special mention.

The following is a brief statement of a new departure that has been inaugurated in the Mikir Schools.

When the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Assam visited Nowgong in March, 1903, he asked the Secretary of the Mission Schools to draft a scheme for the advancement of education among the Mikirs, the leading features of which were to be (1) a Training School for Mikir Teachers located in the Mikir country, and (2) Text-books in the Mikir language written in the Roman character, for the Training School and for all the purely Mikir village schools. The Secretary, in
consultation with the Missionaries to the Mikirs, drafted a scheme on the lines indicated above, and it was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner and came into operation from 1st April, 1904. The Grant-in-aid for the schools was transferred from the Nowgong Local Board, to the Provincial Budget, and increased from Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,500 annually, with a contemplated increase ultimately to Rs. 1,860, which allows Rs. 30 a month for the Mikir Training School, which is now at Tika. The Missionaries to the Mikirs were asked to prepare text-books in the Mikir language for the schools, and the Chief Commissioner kindly promised to have them printed at Government expense. We should hear more about these books in the reports from Tika. So I only mention here that a Primer, and a Second Reader, and an Elementary Arithmetic have already been compiled and printed, and other text-books are in course of preparation.

Heretofore the Assamese language and Assamese text-books had been used in all our Mission schools in the villages, as well as in the station school. Up to date nine of the purely Mikir schools, all of whose pupils are Mikirs, have adopted the Mikir text-books, while the remainder whose pupils are of various races continue to use the Assamese text-books and language. We have still to deplore the fact that most of our village school-teachers are non-Christian. Hence our village schools are not the evangelistic agency we wish them to be. The Government Grant-in-aid pays the teachers, and we superintend the schools, and utilize them as best we can for, the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom.

Table showing Attendance at Nowgong Station School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total pupils on roll on 31st March.</th>
<th>Average on roll for the year.</th>
<th>Average daily attendance.</th>
<th>Amount of Government Grant-in-aid.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1902-03</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>Rs. 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-04</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43.66</td>
<td>37.09</td>
<td>Rs. 120</td>
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Table showing Results of Government Examination in Nowgong Station School.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Examination and Year</th>
<th>Number who appeared at the Examination</th>
<th>Number who passed the Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Upper Primary, 1902-03</td>
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<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;        &quot; 1903-04</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Primary, 1902-03</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;        &quot; 1903-04</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table showing number of Hill Tribe Mission Schools and attendance and cost during two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
<th>Total pupils on the roll on 31st March</th>
<th>Average on the roll for the year</th>
<th>Average daily attendance</th>
<th>Amount paid to teachers from Government Grant-in-aid</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1902-03</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>232.67</td>
<td>184.95, 808.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-04</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>197.8</td>
<td>161.36, 839.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of 1902, five churches were reported in the Nowgong District. Whether there are any more churches in the same area now than two years ago, depends on one's definition of a church. There are two new centres where little groups of baptized believers are bearing witness to Christ as the Saviour of the world. If organization is essential to make a church, there is not enough of that in either of these centres to claim such a designation. Shall they then be called Branch Churches? Probably they are offshoots of the original church of Jerusalem. But their relations with any church in this district are only a few centuries less remote than with that old
mother church; so the term branch church does not seem specially fitting to them. So in trying to give, in a few words, an intelligible report of the churches, one encounters an initial difficulty in the lack of a common acceptance of any definition of the terms church and branch church. With these qualifying observations and reservations the names Lengteng and Tapatjuri are added to the list of Churches in this district. Lengteng recalls to mind Paul's letter to Philemon about the run-away slave, Onesimus; only in this case there are considerable variations. The run-away slave in this instance was a run-away coolie, who was baptized during his wanderings; and instead of being sent back to his master by the apostle with an immortal epistle, he was brought back to the tea-garden by the strong arm of British law by means of a prosaic warrant. All the same there are about a dozen Christians now at that garden, and so far as appears to human eyes, the absconding coolie has been the chief agent in bringing them to Christ; and the Association evangelistic work has seconded his efforts.

Tapatjuri is another tea-garden. Twenty have been baptized there during the last nine months. I have not traced special individual human agency in the planting of this little church. The locality is in the sphere of the evangelistic work of the Association. It seems to be a case of the Holy Spirit working through the agency of existing churches for planting the seed in new soil; a sort of self-propagation, of which we wish to see a great deal more. God multiply this kind.

While we have not made the gain in Sunday School work that we wish to see, yet a little advance has been made in this line, and we mean to keep at it.

There were 48 baptisms in the whole district including the Mikir work in 1903, and 77 in 1904.

The dearth of available Teachers, Pastors, and Leaders of these flocks—men called of God and instructed in His Word—is an ever-fresh cause of sorrow and anxiety to the missionaries. Risk of ruin seems ever to be threatening their existence, yet God has kept them hitherto. The feeling of combating a tendency to disintegration is not long absent from our hearts in our work for and with them.

I have been troubled because not one of the churches, as such, has responded to the opportunity that came to them by the presence of the Bible School at
Nowgong, to send one of their members to be trained for leadership. The one young man from the Nowgong field who has attended the Bible School, has done so on his own initiative, and with the encouragement of a few individuals, and has not been supported by the churches. And yet when, at our last Association, a request was made for an annual contribution of two annas per member for the support of a pupil in the Bible School, it seemed to meet a hearty response, and the majority have made their first annual payment. The money has not yet been used. Special hindrances have stood in the way of the attendance of those who seemed most eligible to the school. It seems as if this defect of lack of suitable leaders in the churches tends to perpetuate itself. Not one of the village churches has a pastor. In two of them a member has most of the time been paid Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 a month for conducting the weekly meetings. For the rest the work of the churches has been voluntary. Besides, all of them contribute towards the evangelistic work of the Association.

There is no ordained native minister on our Nowgong field. For years the ordinances were administered solely by the missionaries.

Choice of a man to administer the ordinances.

Last spring I asked the churches to relieve me from this duty in the villages, by appointing some native brother for this service during the months that the Bible School kept me in the station. At my invitation, representatives of four churches met in Nowgong early in April to consider my request. The meeting turned out to be a memorable one; at least so to me. I anticipated that they would choose Probhu Dyal the Association Evangelist; especially as he is one of the immigrant class, from which most of the members of the village churches come; and his work takes him frequently among the churches. Somewhat to my surprise it transpired that while the Nowgong church would readily have voted for the Association Evangelist, the fact that Probhu Dyal was one of their own race, was considered a drawback to his appointment for this service by most of the representatives of the village churches. The question turned out to be a live issue, and awakened vital interest. After a prolonged and earnest debate in which a lot of independent opinions were freely ventilated, a unanimous vote was finally reached by the choice of Babu Henry Goldsmith, a member of the Nowgong Church and of the Assamese race, for this responsible work; the members of the Nowgong church acquiescing
in the choice of the village churches, and all recognizing the superior fitness that Henry possesses by virtue of his sterling character and his acquaintance with the Bible. This action is in line with the suggestion made by Dr. Barbour on his visit to Assam, that provision be made for the regular and frequent administration of the Lord’s Supper in all the Churches. It carries out his purpose, though the exact measure he suggested, viz., the appointment of one member in each church for this work, would not prove acceptable to our Nowgong village churches. I was pleased that the discussion of the subject at Nowgong evinced on the part of the churches an appreciation of the dignity and importance of the ordinances, and the gravity of the responsibility for their decorous administration.

On the whole we feel that the Churches have made some advance spiritually as well as numerically during the two years under review.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of Church</th>
<th>Membership at beginning of the year</th>
<th>Baptisms</th>
<th>Received by letter or experience</th>
<th>Restored</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Dismissed by letter</th>
<th>Excluded</th>
<th>Membership at end of the year</th>
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<td>75</td>
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**Contributions**

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<tr>
<th>From Home Society</th>
<th>From Missionaries</th>
<th>Church Expenses</th>
<th>For Sunday Schools</th>
<th>To Association</th>
<th>Bible School</th>
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Report from the Sibsagar Field.

Rev. C. E. Petrick.

Since our Conference at the end of 1902 I have been alone in Sibsagar. Since last April the work of the Dibrugarh district has also been in my charge. Most of my time has been spent in touring. In 1903 I spent 181 days on tour and in 1904 I was out on evangelizing tours for 210 days. I spent ten weeks in the Dibrugarh district.

Last Conference I reported ten Churches. The present number of Churches in this district is now 16. The new Churches are at Horan, Attabari, Mohongaon, Nimaigarah, Atkhel and Chhutiza Basti. In Horan we had formerly a church. But it had gone down and practically disappeared on account of members moving to other places; it suffered from the unfruitfulness of the preacher living there, and other missions, the Church of England and the Germans there, also started work in the same place. Last year we began work again at Horan. At present we have there a Church, entirely new with 20 members. Attabari is a tea-estate, 12 miles from Sibsagar. I have worked there for quite a number of years. It is only now that some fruit is harvested. Mohongaon is a daughter-church of Dolbagan. It is quite a promising church with a membership of 80 at present. Nimaigarah is close to the mountains of the independent Nagas and was founded by some Christians of the Seleng-Pokar Church. I have no doubt it will prove in a few years a stronger and far healthier Church than Seleng-Pokar. It has now 18 members. I have taken land near Nimaigarah for a chapel and a rest-house for myself, and also land enough for some families to settle upon. Atkhel is a Church; none of the members were Christians at our last Conference. Now we have there 18 members. Most of them are children in faith it is true, and consider the missionary as their father, more than he likes. But I hope a spirit of maturity and independence will be given to them. Close to our Atkhel Church is a large Garo-village, where some Garos also consider the step of being baptized. Chhutiza-Basti is still younger than Atkhel. It was organized only this year. Of the 12 members, living in Chhutiza-Basti, 12 were baptized this year. We have other new places, which promise to grow into Churches. At Narwa a policeman and his wife were baptized. At Dihingbutch
a fine Miri woman became a believer; and at Debraina a whole Assamese household, husband, wife, son and servant were baptized. They are Ahoms. During the two years 140 persons were baptized on the Sibsagar field. The present membership of the Churches is 765.

Two evangelists for the immigrant population have worked here fruitfully the whole time. An Assamese preacher for the Assamese population exclusively has been employed for the last few months. He is an earnest man, but needs more teaching and training.

Sunday Schools have been kept on during the whole time in four places,—in Sibsagar, Tiok, Bentbari and Dipling,—and part of the time at Seleng Pothe, Mohongaon and Doba. We have used the leaflets of the International Lessons. Want of interest in Sunday-School work is still a great hindrance to more extended work.

At present I have four day-schools in regular working order at Sibsagar, Bentbari, Tiok and Dipling. These schools have been open nearly all the time since last Conference. At Seleng Pothe and Mohongaon schools were open part of the time.

The station-school in Sibsagar is in a flourishing condition. We have 67 names on the roll and attendance has been very satisfactory. I have at present only one teacher, but should the school continue to grow, I shall be obliged to employ a second teacher. Since the beginning of this month I have introduced fees, four annas per month for each pupil, except very poor ones. All seem willing to pay. Should this prove a success then I intend to keep a second master. I intend to open a special class for girls, but I should have to employ a school-mistress for that. For some time I permitted girls to attend the boys' school, but this was not a success. As soon as I have the means, I shall open a separate school or class for girls.

Of the village-schools the best is at Bentbari. Perhaps the reason for this is the interest the school-master takes in his work and in the daily attendance of the pupils and also the monthly examination I give regularly. The whole school has to come once a month to my bungalow to be examined. This is an excellent way to keep the school in satisfactory condition. The other village-schools are too far away to make such an arrangement possible.
Our Sibsagar Mission had an experience this year, so remarkable and wonderful that this report would not be complete without giving a prominent place to the affair. In July the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the Honourable Mr. Fuller, gave orders to make the church building in Sibsagar over to our Mission, to be used for our work. This is a very valuable gift, appreciated very much, not only by us, but also by the whole Native Christian community in Sibsagar. In this way our Mission has come into possession of the finest church-building which we have in Assam. We feel the deepest obligations and sincere gratitude towards the ruler of this province.

During the rains in 1903 I conducted a Bible-class attended by seven men. The subjects I taught were the life of Christ, church-life during the first three centuries, and singing. An Assamese teacher of the Sibsagar church taught Assamese reading. The students had to conduct meetings three times a week. Their addresses were afterwards criticised. The class was in session for five weeks.

I translated the first catechism of the Baptist Publication Society into Hindi. There was no catechism available in that language for our denomination. An edition of 3,000 copies was printed in Calcutta. More than 2,000 copies I have sold. This year I have got ready a hymn-book in Mundari. It has not been printed yet. I have been anxious to convince myself that the hymns are understood by our people. I have taken the manuscript on my tours and called intelligent men among our Munda Christians together to give their opinion and change and correct, where it was thought necessary. I hope to have it printed during next year. With my manifold duties this work has been done with much difficulty. Two severe attacks of fever during the year added to the difficulties. But God's promise has been true: "Fear not; I will help thee" (Isaiah xli. 13).
## Church Statistics

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<td>10</td>
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ASSAM CONFERENCE HYMN.

1904-05.

Tune—Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me.

I.

Jesus, Master, let us share—
Share the burdens Thou dost bear,
Thou who knowest all the way
Ere shall dawn the golden day
When Assam Thy crown shall be,
Thine and ours eternally.

II.

On the mountains we would be
Beacon lights, O Christ, for Thee,
Pointing warriors savage, wild,
To the manger, and the Child
Who as Prince of Peace shall be
Chief and King eternally.

III.

From the many heathen shrines
Whence no ray of hope outshines,
May all eyes be turned to Thee,
Thou the Christ of Calvary
Until all Assam shall be
Thine and ours eternally.

IV.

Lord, we hail the vision bright,
And we praise Thee, Lord, to-night
For the tokens of the day
Now forth-speeding on its way
When Assam Thy crown shall be,
Thine and ours eternally.

WILLIAM ELLSWORTH WITTER.

Boston, Mass.