

# Field and Work.

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## FIELD AND WORK.

A periodical containing extracts of letters by the Lord's servants, and others, relating to the work of God among His People.

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Letters of general interest to the people of God will be thankfully received by the editor,

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### THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE JEWS.

"They who have never concealed their hatred of the religion of Christ are beginning to flock to His standard. There are now 2,000 Hebrew Christians in Berlin and 3,000 in Great Britain. Every year, 1,500 Jews leave the synagogue for the Church of Christ. A few years ago a Hebrew Christian prayer union was formed in London. It has now 351 members. The London society for promoting Christianity among the Jews has missionaries in 28 European, six Asiatic, and four African cities. Of all the Christian missions among the Jews that of Joseph Rabinowitz gives the greatest encouragement to those who look for the speedy evangelization of the Jewish people."

"Rabinowitz is a phenomenon in modern church history, at the appearance of which our hopes are revived; a star of promise in the heavens. May God preserve this star in the right course and give it the right light! are the hopeful words of Franz Delitzsch of Leipsic. Joseph Rabinowitz was deeply versed in Talmudic lore; a leading lawyer of Bessarabia, correspondent of the most influential Hebrew papers of Russia. By the Government he was appointed to positions of honor and influence. The Jewish Gentile strife led him to hope that if brought to Palestine his people would again be a free and progressive nation. He went to Palestine to arrange for the accomplishment of this cherished scheme. He returned to announce to his brethren, 'The key to the Holy Land lies in the hand of our brother Jesus,' and immediately began to preach the Gospel. He lately wrote to Saphir, 'Tell the brethren of London, Edinburgh and Glasgow that in the valley of Russia the bones are beginning to come together.'"

"Dr. J. Lichtenstein, a Rabbi, of Tapio-Szele, Hungary, has announced himself a believer in Jesus Christ our Lord. His conversion is due to the independent study of the New Testament. He has published two pamphlets with the object of proving to his brethren the divinity of Christ. There is a movement, extending to nine German universities, having for its aim Christian missions among the Jews. This 'Instituta Hebraica' two years ago numbered three hundred students as its

members. In New York city Jacob Freshman commenced work among Jews seven years ago. The work was heavily handicapped. But the one aim of the mission has been to show to Israel that Jesus, their brother, is their Messiah, and to urge the people 'beloved for their fathers' sake' to accept him as the Lamb of God who taketh away the world's sins."

"When we consider the Jewish race, their history, the twenty sieges of Jerusalem within two thousand years; all this stability in desolation of the past, the marvellous starting to life again at the present, and this new flocking to Christ, we are reminded of ancient prophecy, and having seen the fulfillment of the first part of Isaiah's prophecies, believe that we can see the beginning of that of the second. 'Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city, until the Spirit be poured out upon us from on high and the wilderness becomes a beautiful field.'" *Mr. Hossack (Toronto).*

#### UNITED STATES.

FITCHBURG, MASS.—Mrs. Harris and Miss Prescott had a very rough passage home from St. Croix. All who know about the boat say it is wonderful that she lived through such a storm (reported to be the worst our coast has experienced for forty years). Doubtless "He sitteth o'er the water floods" has a deeper significance than ever before to them. I often think that if we, or at least I, realized more that it is His hand that "guides each drifting wave," I should be less often tried and vexed at trifles. It is "the little foxes that spoil the vines," is it not? O to know more of what it is to see nothing save "Jesus only"!

Mr. Haskell expects to be away nearly all winter, if the Lord tarry, visiting places in N. Y. and Pa. *A. T. H.*

FITCHBURG, MASS.—We were in imminent danger, humanly speaking, but were kept calm and happy, thanks to Him who rules the waves of the sea and speaks peace to the believing heart as well. *S. E. P.*

TOWANDA, PA.—There is encouragement here, and in the neighborhood around an open door for the Gospel. In the school house the people come out well; indeed it almost seems as though the cities do not offer so encouraging a field as the country for Gospel work. We have just closed a series of all-day meetings here. Bro. Haskell was with us, and the saints have been refreshed and encouraged. Quite a number of strangers came out. We hear of continued blessing in New York and of refreshment in Brooklyn; near here seven lately gathered at the Lord's table.

I purpose (D. V.) to visit a place for Gospel work where a brother and sister live. Would ask your prayers. We must be advancing or we will be receding. Would that all the Lord's people were awakened to a true spirit of confession of need and prayer, then what a reviving, what power in the Gospel, what salvation of souls we would see! Let us continue in prayer for a widespread awakening amongst us. *Samuel Ridd.*

OAKLAND, CAL.—Here several have got much help and, I trust, are established in the truth of the Gospel. Two very godly people (Baptist) we thought were set free, but there are things that hold them still. The old man (mentioned in Dec. number) who had been for 40 years tossed about until he had lost all interest even in the Bible, the Lord visited with light, and he is now bright and happy and in fellowship. His wife and children were dead (except one who is a trial to him), his means all expended, and with little to comfort him, he was a fit subject for the Lord to show grace and mercy to, and one is thankful indeed to see

him in peace and rest. He said on coming over from the breaking of bread, "Just think of having to throw away 40 years of teaching, and in one's old age to have to begin again like a little child; but there was nothing in it, it was all trash," alluding to the Methodist holiness doctrine.

In a day and country like this, when the fear of God is so completely thrown aside by the mass, and profession so unreal and empty, it is a comfort to see some whose hearts are open to the Lord and His Word. Another one or two old people seem to have been helped, but people are so filled up with other things, and Methodism is such a destructive system, that unless there is a real breaking down there is no progress made.

Now I am thinking of Santa Barbara or San Diego for a while; at the latter place, Dr. Latta, from Grand View, Iowa, writes hopefully of some opening, and there is a Mexican population also; it is near the border, with constant intercourse with Mexico. Another, Bro. Graham from Grand View, also, will be there this winter, and the prospect of some fellowship makes that place more attractive than Santa Barbara, where, however, there is a large Mexican population. Well, may He graciously guide us in it all into that which will be for His glory. From Morenci, Arizona, P. Gonzalez writes that two have gone to El Paso, Texas, and that at Morenci he is encouraged. The Bibles are sent about to do their work from one family to another, and the Sunday before a dozen gathered into his tent to read and talk over the Bible from 2 p. m. till 11 p. m. To furnish help for such is my great desire, and I have enough manuscript to begin a little Spanish periodical for this, and when I get to a place to stay a while, think to begin it.

*Robert T. Grant.*

ELMIRA, N. Y.—I have it on my heart to write you that you may sympathize with

us in the loss of our dear brother Hadley, who departed to be with the Lord Friday evening, the 16th Nov., at 6 o'clock. He had been ailing since the first of October. While suffering much at times, he expected to recover and live a number of years if the Lord tarried, and even to the end, so far as I can learn, did not expect to die. Bro. Bidout was here through the week previous and went out to see him daily, but could not see that he was very ill up to the last Lord's Day, when he thought his case might develop into pneumonia, in which case he would not be likely to live. They said he passed away as if falling into a quiet sleep, and he looked like that as I saw him in his coffin yesterday. Only Bro. F. and myself of those who knew him best in his last years looked upon his dead face and saw where they laid him.

Mrs. P. is feeble in health and has given up house-keeping. She is with her daughter in Canton most of the time. One cannot help thinking much of our feebleness. Yet as often as I am cast down the Lord comforts me by bringing to my remembrance the words of Jonathan to his armor bearer (1 Sam. xiv. 6), so again I look towards Him in whom alone is strength, and as to myself "though He tarry, wait for Him." I am sure we are and have been in a very low state, occupied with much that does not profit or bring near to God; and so we have been brought low in the presence of our enemies. Oh for a singleness of eye and purpose to the praise and glory of God! Dear brother, I count upon your prayer for us. We just commenced to pray together this fall. Bro. H. was at the first meeting held about the last Wednesday evening in August, and he it was who suggested it.

*P. M. Jones.*

#### CANADA.

HORTON LANDING, N. S.—Some seem a little interested in the truth, and although

the preaching was not largely attended, I trust some got help and heard enough to come again despite the prejudice that exists. Dear Bro. E. S. L. was a comfort and blessing. It seemed dull work sometimes, yet we had a sweet sense of the Lord's presence. I received blessing in my heart more fully to the gracious Master and trust that God will honor our brother's faithfulness in some fruit yet. I rejoice to know that whatever is built, be it ever so little, if founded on the rock Christ Jesus, will never crumble nor fall. My brother is growing weaker, but seems fully occupied with his farm and little with Christ. I long to see him drop the muck rake and look up. I feel anxious to have you visit some who are interested about their souls. When I read **FIELD AND WORK** and hear of blessing in other parts I pray God that I may not be the hindrance to the work of the Lord here. I thank Him that in my own family I take more comfort as I see their interest increase, and more attention to the lessons and hymns, but beyond them my efforts to lead any to the truth as far as I can see seems lost, but I know our work is not in vain in the Lord, although discouraging sometimes. The Lord guide and help us in a patient, faithful resting in His grace, that we may know His will and be willing instruments in His hand. The blessing will come when God has fully prepared the way. I realize the Temple is being cleansed, that it may become the house of prayer. *John R. Stewart.*

ST. JOHN, N. B.—E. S. L. has been with us. He had a pleasant visit at Gardiner's Creek. Lord's Day he and McGaw went by their own team, found all well and returned Monday. Hope you are receiving much increase of seed sown and being upheld by Him whose strength is perfected in weakness. *A. McBeath.*

BLACK CAPE, QUE.—The Lord is still

graciously gathering saints to His name here. How precious the Lord's prayer, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, that but thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy word is truth."

Some of those gathered here have been active members in the Presbyterian society, and their withdrawal will be keenly felt. Among them three elders, and the wife of a fourth. The majority is middle-aged, and evenly divided as to sex.

We are holding meetings in two other places, about six and nine miles distant, and several at each district are outside "the camp" in heart. Quite a few, I believe, will be gathered, as they are eagerly accepting the Word. Truly a wave of blessing is passing over this section, and the judgment seat alone will reveal the full result.

Your ministry, I am certain, would be very helpful at the present time. "There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us."

Thank God! Satan's kingdom is shaken in some places. Hope to be at Bedford at New Year. I will be happy then to visit Margaret's Bay. It would be too bad to leave it without forming an assembly. Twenty or so of the members have gone to the shanties for the winter. I told the saints you were likely to pay them a visit, and they are rejoicing in anticipation.

*J. B. McCaffery.*

MONTREAL, QUE.—There may yet be more to the Lord's praise out of our time of discouragement in Halifax than is now apparent. He can give to each the lesson and the blessing He knows to be best. Am glad to hear it is in your hearts to find a lodging for any of the Lord's servants who

may come that way on His errands, and though it might not be in use, the willing mind is precious unto Him (3 Jno. v. 8).

I began quietly in the room here; there was much to exercise some at the time, but the Lord came in and cleared all up. Since then the Lord's Day mornings have been very refreshing. There has been some little help within, but not many reached around yet. Still the quietness and interest cheers one a little, and more may yet be accomplished. In another room there has been some help, and the interest is maintained if not increased. The lectures are not largely attended, though some are getting help. I may soon go towards the Pacific (D. V.).

*W. C. Johnston.*

KINGSTON, ONT.—I returned yesterday after an absence of about four weeks. I did not get to Golden Lake meeting, as I had hoped, having gone to Toronto Sept. 28th and continued till Oct. 3rd. The Lord gave us much blessing, and all seemed greatly refreshed. There were about 100 together and the meeting was harmonious throughout. From thence I went to Fergus and gave a few lectures on the Lord's coming; a goodly number came to hear and many listened attentively. Returning I stayed in Toronto a few days and called at Oshawa and Coburg.

I would much like to spend more time in western Ontario, if God give grace and so guide, feeling there is much need of labor among the saints. My family are quite well through the Lord's tender mercy.

*William McCandless.*

CARLETON PLACE, ONT.—It is laid on my heart to drop you this. No doubt you have heard that Bro. McRea of Cumberland is now out in the Lord's work. He felt led to go to Richmond, a small town between here and Ottawa, where there was once a small gathering. Our Bro. McR.'s

visit has been blest to them. They came together to remember Him once more, and their hearts were made to realized His presence in the midst.

Bro. McR. began Gospel meetings and souls got blessing, and he came up here to tell us what the Lord was doing there. Bro. McGuire went down to work with him a few days, and the Word was blest to several, both saints and sinners. When Bro. McG. came back I went down, and have been there for two weeks, and God has manifested His power in a wonderful way. I never witnessed anything like it. The hall was crowded, and Satan very busy, eggs, stones and missiles of any kind being used, some stoned on their way to and from the meetings, and Bro. McR. and myself pelted while speaking, but all failed, and sinners were saved and saints cut loose from system.

There are now twelve breaking bread and several more about ready and quite a number anxious. I was obliged to come home yesterday to attend to business and Bro. McGuire has gone down to-day to work with Bro. McR. for a little. I hope to get back soon (D. V.). I had a line from Bro. Rogers. He is working at Douglas and encouraged.

*J. R. McLaren.*

## CHINA.

[With earnest desire to fulfill our Lord's words as to those in His work who "follow not with us," "Forbid them not, for he that is not against us is for us," (Luke ix. 50); as also the further Christian privilege and duty of "acknowledging every good thing which is in them in Christ Jesus" (Phile. 6.), we give the following briefs from "China's Millions," trusting thus to enlarge our heart's sympathies in their behalf for our mutual blessing and God's glory. In this endeavor we trust our brethren will "lend a helping hand," and send

us promptly papers marked, that will thus contribute to the general good. (June number 1888 China's Millions is desired, as also the Jewish Herald, and any missionary papers that others have which will save expense of taking them all and thus give as general a view as possible to readers who hear little if anything in this way.) ED.]

"The Lord has done great things for us ;

1. Sending in *money* to carry on the work (1886—£22,000—\$110,000. 1887—£33,000—\$165,000.), the sums varying from three penny postage stamps to thousands of pounds.

2. The gift of *qualified laborers* (1887—100), encouragement both to attempt great things for God and to expect great things from Him.

3. In gathering of precious souls (551)."

"Catholic in its principles and spirit, wholly consecrated to the Lord and looking only to Him for prosperity and blessing, the China Inland Mission has not tarried on the sea coast, but gone right into the interior and carried the Gospel almost to every province."

"An additional £10,000 was desired for 1887. It was supplied in eleven contributions—the smallest of which was £500, and the largest £2,500. No man was asked for a penny ; the LORD was asked ; and He inclined the hearts of His people to give."

"The list of donations gives only dates and numbers and amounts, but how interesting those figures become when you bear in mind that each of those donations is the issue of a distinct spiritual impulse—the work of the HOLY SPIRIT in the heart of some unknown child of God, who has been led to send the few pence or the many pounds that he had it in his heart and power to give. It is because it was consecrated money, given first to the LORD, for His eyes alone, and then sent out to do

His service, that it has gone so far and been attended with so much blessing."

"We never expend money not actually in hand. *We never go into debt*, and, thank God, we never need to do so, because we have a FATHER who has unlimited resources, and who knows exactly what should be expended. He gives us just what He wants expended ; and we have great joy and pleasure in using it for Him. Let us all live more and more in the joy of realising with Whom it is that we have to do."

"Twenty-two years ago we had the joy of sailing from London to commence the work of the INLAND MISSION. There are 500 more missionaries in China today (not counting missionaries' wives) than there were twenty-two years ago. Is it not something to praise God for? More than 3,000 have been baptized. We have been disappointed in some of these people, but how many more unbaptized ones died in the faith of Christ! If only the present number of communicants—2,100—had been saved, there would be great cause to give God thanks and praise. In fifteen provinces, we have 64 stations and 65 out-stations ; 132 native helpers, 18 schools, 24 hospitals, etc., carried on by native Christians—a very encouraging fact."

"A version of the Mandarin New Testament in Roman letters is being printed."

"I would urge the need of increasing prayers for our beloved brothers and sisters in China. If the number of them is large, Satan is not pleased. If their piety has deepened, Satan is not pleased. If their success in winning souls is increased, Satan is not pleased. Depend upon it that nothing within his power to hinder or to mar the spiritual life of any one, or of the whole of them, will he neglect. But God is almighty. May we not count upon constant prayers that the spiritual life of the workers may be ever sustained and deepened? The Lord grant it."

"There are now 204 missionaries in the China Inland Mission, 10 or 12 of whom are medical missionaries. Medical mission work in China affords a splendid sphere for those who have medical knowledge, and are willing to consecrate it to the Lord's service. Whatever difficulties may arise you can look up to Him with the assurance of His protection. But we are simply and absolutely there on sufferance. If the people in the city chose to raise false reports, it would be the simplest thing in the world to get up a popular riot and expel the missionaries, as has often been done. At such hard times we need to cast ourselves upon the Lord to know what His purpose is; but if we have patience, even in these hardships, we shall be able to testify that 'All things work together for good to them that love God.'"

"We use the medical work as a key, and when the doors are unlocked we use every opportunity to preach the Gospel. Suppose that you open a small house, and admit men into one room and women into another, fitting up a middle room for the dispensary. They will at once see that your purpose is a benevolent one. And when the sick come and receive kind treatment, and go away relieved and benefited, a very favorable impression is made. In houses to which we should never have been called otherwise the residents heard for the first time the Gospel of the grace of God. While the patients are one by one being seen, the fellow-missionary goes on speaking to those waiting their turn. Thus we have a splendid opportunity of preaching to people who perhaps otherwise would never hear the Gospel."

"Preaching in China is very different to preaching at home, some have never before heard about Christ or about God. All is strange to them, and you must begin at the very foundation. If, instead of just speaking to them, you write your text on the

wall, you gain a great deal. We use a text-roll, turning over a leaf at a time, and 'we are often asked 'what we have come to this land for.' These two words explain why, 'Ch'uan-to'—'preach the Gospel.' Then we turn over the page and say, 'Do you want to know what this Gospel is which we preach? Chen-Shen—the true God. In your country we see temples on every side and idols in every house. Now we have come to speak to you about the one true God.' Very likely some one will say, 'Who is this true God? Where does He live? Where and how do you worship Him?' Then you turn over again and show them 'Tsao' tien-ti.'—'Creator of heaven and earth.' This is quite a new thought to them, for their idea is that heaven and earth were always there. They have no idea of a Creator. These three words rivet their attention as you speak about God as the Creator of all things and the Ruler of all men. You may next turn over another leaf, and speak about man, first made holy, then falling into sin. 'Kiu-chu.'—'Saviour,' speak to them about Christ as the Saviour."

"1 Chronicles xxix. 5: 'Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?' I take it that we profess that our life really is consecrated to God's service. Oh, brethren, when we look into our hearts, is it a fact that our whole life is consecrated to God's service? Is it a fact that I am living both in the way and in the place God would have me to live? Are we really working for our God as and where He would have us?"

"Two sentences God sent home to my heart. One, 'Why should I *not* go?' The other, 'Do you believe that you have a call from God to stop at home?' Is there any Christian brother or sister who does not long to be filled with the Spirit? Is it not what we want, whether to work at home or abroad? If we want to be filled with

the Spirit, we must put ourselves into the hands of the Spirit, for Him to do with us as He would."

"I did not know whether God wanted me to go to China or not; but when one is in God's hands, willing to go anywhere, He makes the way plain. While in doubt what to do, a remark of a sister was the means of leading me to take the first step. 'Sometimes when God is leading us to do special work for Him, we have to take the first step in simple, naked faith; we cannot see anything beyond.' That little message seemed to come straight from God. Oh what a joy it is to be willing to go wherever the Lord wants, and to put one's self into His hands! Oh may God lead us all so to put ourselves into His hands, that He can do anything with us!"

"Dr. Dale, of Birmingham, one of the shrewdest observers of the age, stated that the great evangelistic revival of the last century reached its height about 1830, and from that time began to decline. I set to work to try to find out why, and could not conceal from myself that 1830 was just the time that the missionary societies had kindled a flame of enthusiasm all over the country. I do not say the two things are necessarily connected, but I do want you earnestly to rouse yourselves to look this question fully in the face. Is it possible that it be associated with the methods of our great missionary societies?"

"First, whether it was not a peril and an infinite loss to the Church when she began leaving the simplicity of the Gospel to stir up missionary enthusiasm. Then was not there a greater peril?—when we began to put all our energies into getting money to carry on God's work. What could come of it but this—that rich men were worth more to the Church than good men, wealth more than piety? We are glad that the China Inland Mission has never troubled itself about money. Now, I would that we

could learn this method. Look at the question all round. We think we may do for the Church what a publican would be sent to prison for if he were to attempt it. I thank God the China Inland Mission has taught us the lesson not to be afraid *to go to God to ask for money*. Now, as I turn to the New Testament I find the most sublime indifference to money. As to poor Judas, I really cannot help pitying him; how bewildered he must have been when there came to the MASTER that gentleman, worth at least, let us say, £100,000, and the Lord Jesus said, 'Go give all your money to the poor, and come and follow Me!'"

"Almost all Christians, if they give a good subscription, think that they have done all that duty requires. Now, I believe that that has been the outcome of the methods adopted. Agree with me or disagree with me, but think it out; for the Church has come to think that the conversion of the world rests with the ministers, and that the Church's work is to give their annual subscriptions and nothing more. Now the China Inland Mission has come in to teach us this great lesson, that no man does his duty to the Lord Jesus Christ who wants in any way to get rid of his share of the burden. We put the minister out of his place. He is not the light of the world, up somewhere where most of you cannot get. You are the light of the world, and the minister is the golden snuffers: that is all. He has to keep the lights bright and burning."

"I thank God that the China Inland Mission has opened up opportunities for individual heroism. Yes, work is only thought to be self-sacrifice when it is for JESUS CHRIST, Oh! it is an infinitely sad thing: we only talk about self-sacrifice when it is to save souls. When it is to hunt beetles and collect butterflies then it is 'pleasure.'"