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February 1897

General Notes and News.

Our special meetings at the New Year, which were pretty fully reported in last number, seem to have been much blessed. Some of the FIFE friends said the conference there was the best they had ever experienced.

THE EDINBURGH meetings were very good, notwithstanding the dinginess, dimness (we don't care for "dim religious light") "sunshine in the soul" is much better), and coldness of the large Queen Street Hall. As usual in Edinburgh, the expenses considerably exceeded the total collections.

MR CAMPBELL MORGAN'S pilgrimage among us was very brief, but busy, and much appreciated. He left Birmingham after his own church watch-night at 3.10 A.M. on Friday the 1st, got to PATHHEAD nearly twelve hours later, spoke twice there, travelled to Edinburgh the next morning, and gave us a most thoughtful and helpful hour's address, and returned to Birmingham at 2 P.m., due 9.30 that night, to be in time for his own special New Year's services from 7 A.M. Sunday. We feel sure there was fruit left behind that will be manifest in lives to God's glory.

About a score of pilgrims were present at the special Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday nights' meetings in EDINBURGH, and we had good attendances and times of liberty. Four pilgrims' meetings were also held during these days, helpful to all, we hope.

After that we scattered to our various spheres of service. The present apportionment of our workers is as follows;

General and East District, 13; West District, 20; Ireland, 17 -making 50 altogether. Another brother from England (A. Mann), who intends going abroad later, joined Pilgrim Harris at Taynuilt, and we expect a sister from Bristol shortly.

Likely many of our readers little realise how much detail work, in the way of continuous correspondence, keeping of cash books and accounts, etc., there is in connection with the Mission. Much of the time of some of us is monopolised with this kind of work. This past month we have been busy; among other things, checking the quarter's books and accounts.

Mr D. L. MOODY has been writing lately about 4000 churches in America that, on their own confession, could not count any converts during last year. I wonder if results in this country are better? We would not like, the Faith Mission to continue to exist when converts to Christ through it ceased. Figures, we feel, are not a true test of spiritual blessing, so we seldom give them. Still, it may interest some to know that in round numbers some 700 professed conversion during last three months. Praise God with us, and pray for them:

FROM a note above, it will be seen there is an undue proportion of pilgrims in the West, especially when we consider that that district seems the poorest and least able to be self-supporting. Last quarter it alone required about £75 from the General Fund. But, then, the needs of many of these remote HIGHLAND islands, glens, and clachans appeal strongly to us. So we would like, if possible, to go on spreading the glorious light of Christ's salvation where the darkness is deepest, and where they have had the fewest privileges, looking to the Lord to supply the needs through people who may be specially interested in the Highlands and able to help, or through whatever channel He sees best.

ARE you a Faith Mission PRAYER UNION member? We want more praying people as helpers. To be a P.U. member does not mean necessarily to go to Faith Mission meetings. It

does mean to be in sympathy with this work among the neglected country districts of our own land, to be willing to pray for all fellow-members, for the Mission's work, and for the whole Church of Christ, and also that you are seeking first the Kingdom. If you conform to these conditions, why not join and strengthen our bonds by your sympathy and prayer? If there is no branch where you live, there is one at Headquarters, where we will be glad to enrol you, and now is a good time to join. Terms on cover. Unfortunately, through inadvertence, some of this year's membership cards bear the old wording, instead of that adopted last year. This will be rectified in future issues.

ARE you a PRAYING Prayer Union member? The Mission needs your prayers, those who have to direct it need your prayers, all the pilgrims need your prayers, the young converts need them, and should we not all unite in praying for the whole Church of Christ and "for a mighty revival?" For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace. ... I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

WE felt it refreshing to be at the Friday night prayer-meeting (a real prayer-meeting, no address, some suitable singing, but most of the time on our knees) at ROTHESAY on 22nd. There were not very many of us, but the spirit was good, and we believe Jesus was there. Real prayer-meetings are precious times.

"SHILOH" is the name given to their new hall by the Ardrishaig Gospel Band. It is a nice brick building, capable of holding 300 people. Some of the Christians gave freely of their labour in the workmanship, so it has cost less than it otherwise would. But some money is still required. The first services in it were two prayer-meetings on Saturday night at 8 and Sunday morning at 9.40. There were not very many of us altogether, but something of His presence was realised as we spoke one to another of Him and His working, and waited on Him in prayer. In the afternoon at 2, about fifty gathered to a Christians' meeting, and in the evening at 7.40 we had a good Gospel service. Monday night was snowy, stormy, and bitterly cold, but nevertheless a fair number came to the tea-meeting, and we believe helpful words were uttered by the four speakers. Rev. Mr Telfer is holding a fortnight's special mission now.

AT ROTHESAY we were glad to find Pilgrim McAlpine much better, and able to be out. Two months ago it did not look as if he was to be spared for more service here. Now he has been told that his health will not stand this climate, but in a warmer one he might be all right. A missionary in North Africa would be glad to have him there to help in the work, if friends at home could furnish the £6 or £7 for passage money, and about £40 a year for support.

SEPTEMBER seems far ahead still. But we are beginning to make arrangements for our next Rothesay CONVENTION, which we hope to hold towards the end of that month, and have already booked two speakers. Is it too soon to ask you to pray that we may be guided in all the arrangements for it?

I HAVE just been reading most interesting letters from ARMENIA of Mr and Mrs Rendel Harris. They are shortly to be published in book form. Another book, called Armenia and Europe, edited by Professor Harris, has just appeared. It tells of the terrible cruelties and miseries inflicted on that perishing people, and shows the enormity of the guilt of Europe and Great Britain in their action, or inaction, in the matter. One is heart-sick of the excuses and hypocrisy of politicians and governments, and the apparent want of realisation, or heart, and a true sense of righteousness among the people generally, including Christians, in regard to the terrible blood-stains of these past few years, and the dark, black blot in our country's history. A few more donations have reached us, viz.,—260, Edinburgh, 4s. j 261, Mustard Seed (4th donation), £2; 262, Kincardine, 5s.; 263, Carluke, 5s. 6d.; 264, Irvine, 10s.; 265, Bolton, 10s.; bringing the total up to £456, 6s. now.

WE are contemplating several important CHANGES in the working of the Mission. Particulars will probably appear next month, or before long. Meanwhile we count on your sympathy and prayers. J. G. G.

EAST DISTRICT

Headquarters: c/o D. DONALDSON, 75 Warrender Park Road.

Place.	Pilgrims.	Opened.	Closed.
Edinburgh (Hall),	Donaldsons.		
FAI.KI.AND,	McLeod, Dickson.	Jan. 10.	
BOWDEN,	Rankins.	Jan. 10.	
WARK	M'Neill, Morton.	Jan. 10.	

Pilgrim Richardson began a week's Christians' meetings at DUNNING on 12th February, and reports very good times.

A local friend writes:—"The attendance athe the first was not what it might have been, but as the nights went past the meetings grew larger, as those who heard Pilgrim Richardson once wanted to hear him again. From first to last it was a most blessed time, and everyone received definite blessing.

Pilgrim Richardson in a remarkable way opened up the Bible to us, showing in clear and loving terms the glorious fulness of the salvation of Jesus Christ. His whole plea was that we might get a full revelation of Jesus, and as night after night he revealed the privileges and blessings that were in Him for the redeemed of God, we believe many got a new and fresh vision of Jesus and His fulness, and were led to surrender themselves to be filled, and to know something of the overcoming and overflowing life. We can only thank God for our brother's visit, as it was not only his words but his life that showed what Jesus can be when He owns the whole."

We have, since the New Year meetings, got over most of the Prayer Unions in the Fife portion of this district. A good deal of sickness exists, and the meetings have been small, but the Lord has been with us in our journeyings hither and thither, by rail, bicycle, and on foot, and we trust the gatherings together have not been in vain.

FALKLAND, in Fife, is a second mission, the first having been held some nine years ago nearly. The meetings are well attended, and there have been some evident tokens of the Lord's presence and blessing; but we are praying for still greater things to be done in the days nigh at hand.

BOWDEN is also a second mission, just two miles from our sisters' last mission (Newtown). From the first Sunday the people turned out well, and the Lord has been working in their hearts. A few decided to serve the King during last week. The meetings are keeping up in attendance, and we trust the work going on in the hearts of the people will be deepened until it results in their taking a definite stand for God. The young converts from Newtown help much by their presence, and seem bright and happy in the service of their new Master. The school has been kindly granted for another week, but we hope the work will go on even longer. At the invitation of the WARK Y.M.C.A., two of our sisters have opened a mission there. They report good times in visiting, blessing amongst Christians, one or two decisions, and evident conviction amongst the unsaved. Will all our P.U. members pray that in our next month's report we shall in all these missions have greater things to chronicle of the Lord's working in the midst?

In the Hall, in Edinburgh, Pilgrim Donaldson reports the work going steadily on. Over one hundred Christians assembled at the forenoon meeting the other Sunday morning. He reports a good week-end, and one at the Cross. The Lord keep all who have lately trusted Him true to Himself.

WEST DISTRICT

Superintended by J.Stewart, Rothesay

Place	Pilgrims.	Opened.	Closed.
Creigh	Pendreigh, M. McLean.	Nov. 19.	Jan. 15.
Portree	Carmichael, Campbell.	Nov. 22.	
Rudhagarbh	W. M'Neill.	Dec. 21.	Jan. 17.
Killin	Webby McFarlane.	Jan. 10.	
Clydebank	Potties.	Jan. 10.	
Achosnich	A. McLean, Patterson.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 31.
Kinlocheil	Wark, McPhail.	Jan. 17.	
Taynuilt	Harris, Mann.	Jan. 17.	
Port Appin	H. E. Govan, McNeill.	Jan.18.	
Kinloch (Mull)	Pendreigh, M. McLean.]an. 24	

The snow is with us this time as we sit down to chronicle something of the Lord's doings among the people, and its purity is suggestive of that Scripture which speaks of that washing which makes "whiter than the snow." This month again a number, we believe, throughout the district have been led to the "fountain opened/" whose blood " cleanseth from all sin."

Fairly encouraging openings are reported from Kinlocheil, Taynuilt, Killin, and Port Appin.

At RUDHAGARBH (Appin) Pilgrim M'Neill reported several decisions before closing. P.Us. have been formed at Duisky and Creich, which might have a special place in our prayers when remembering the work at the Throne of Grace.

Up in SKYE our sisters are still working away, with, as yet, not much sign of a break in the enemy's ranks, but a freer spirit in the meetings, and some of the Christians getting blessing.

ACHOSNICH (Ardnamurchan) is being visited again for a fortnight, and the brothers there speak of the converts being bright, and of much interest generally. -J. STEWART.

CLYDEBANK.—The word "mission" is to some people what the proverbial red rag is to the bull. It arouses all the "Old Adam" in them, and they not only flatly refuse to help, but unfavourably prejudice others who would. Not a little of this hostile attitude has been brought about by so-called evangelists who have substituted noise for piety, and mere mental assent to the truths of God's Word for real Holy Ghost heart-work. Finney spoke of such places as "burnt up," and, master though he was in evangelism, could do but little in such districts. God save us from this false evangelism, whose effect is as evanescent as "the morning cloud" and the " early dew "!

Clydebank is hard soil. Its people have had many missions, and have again and again rejected the Saviour. The devil, too, has been busy sowing the seeds of worldliness and dissension in the hearts of the Lord's people, thus making the work harder still. Hence a few souls saved here means more than a multitude in other places. The Pilgrims Pottie began their mission on January 10. It was soon evident that the Lord had sent the right messengers. The straight, manly, practical way of putting the truth—heart-searching, sin-denouncing, soul-convicting— has ploughed deep into the hearts of the hearers; and although there has been no great breakdown, hardly a meeting has been held without visible fruit. The congregations have steadily increased, the power has deepened, Christians have been confessing their sins, backsliders have been restored, and sinners converted to God. Not the least important of these services have been those held for the children. They have been conducted each evening, and a large number have expressed their desire to love and serve Jesus. At the unanimous and

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earnest request of the leaders, the pilgrims are staying for a third week. Our prayer is that it may be a time of much reaping. FREDK. INWOOD, Wesleyan Minister, Clydebank.

CREICH (ROSS of Mull).—The meetings were held in the Schoolhouse, except on Saturday evenings, when private houses in the different townships were resorted to. Never, we think, has Christian work been more successful in the district, and, considering the number that have openly professed Christ, the results are really pleasing and happy. Even on the coarsest nights there was always a large attendance, while in good weather the house was often crowded. It was pleasing to see so many coming over bad roads, amid pelting rains and in the darkness of winter nights. Many who were rather remiss in their attendance at church heretofore, could very often be seen taking their seat among the audience. On December 31st a watch-night meeting was held, which was largely attended, and in meditation and prayer the New Year was ushered in. It was the first meeting of its kind ever held in this particular district, and it was a very solemn occasion. On the night of 12th January, again, a most successful tea-meeting was held. This was New Year in the old style, and the attendance of young people on that occasion was most remarkable. The Rev. Mr Brown, Baptist minister, and the Rev. D. M'Lean, Bunessan, took part in the proceedings. The Rev. Mr Dewar, of Iona, and the Rev. Mr Stewart, of Ross of Mull Free Church, though not present at this meeting, encouraged the pilgrims during their stay in the district.

A Prayer Union has been formed, and the young converts meet every Tuesday for prayer, Bible reading, and singing. J. M.

ACHOSNICH.—After our special Old New-Year gatherings we are once more "on a mission" — this time to ARDNAMURCHAN, where there are a good number who truly love the Lord. It was about this time last year that the first mission was opened, and, after almost a year's experience of living for Jesus, the converts' only desire is to know more of their blessed Lord and Master, and they are not afraid to tell it out. Night after night, as one looked across the crofts in the direction where the meeting was to be held, It was really inspiring to see here and there a little company of old and young climbing the hill, lamp in hand, and singing as they came, if not audibly, truly in the heart. Several have professed since our coming this time, and others been helped. Two sister-pilgrims paid them a brief visit this winter, which was a real help to them all, especially to those that were not so strong in the faith.

Now we must pass on elsewhere, for we are pilgrims. Let each of us remember these friends continually in our prayers. The people are above measure kind; if any one doubts Highland hospitality, let him come to Ardnamurchan. McL. and P.

IRELAND

Place.	Pilgrims	Opened	Closed
KILLYMAN,	Barry M. R. Wright.	Nov. 29	
BALLINDERRY	Morrison, Taberner	Dec. 27	
BALLYNURE,	M.F. Wright, Goodall	Jan.3	
TULLYARRAN	Lyall, Kelly	Jan 10	
KILLYBEGS	M & H Garratt		
ENNIS	Irvine & Deathe		

Beside the missions that are reported, let me add a few notes about the others.

BALLYNURE is very encouraging, and souls are deciding for Jesus nightly. Praise the Lord.

TULLYARRAN (Co. Tyrone) has had a good opening, and the attendance and interest are very satisfactory. Up to the present, after meetings have not been held, but we hope that by the time this reaches B. W. readers there will be a harvest of souls.

KILLYBEGS (Co. Donegal) has good meetings, many of the converts of the Aughayeougue mission coming nightly.

For long we have been praying and hoping to go to the more neglected parts of this island. At length we have made a start, and Pilgrims Irvine and Deathe have gone to the south-west. At present their work is mostly pioneering. Let us pray much that the Lord may open a door before them, and that fruit may be won for Jesus from the dark places of this land.

Pilgrim McLean has, besides visiting various P.Us., had a week of Christians' meetings at PORTSTEWART. Though the attendance was small, we trust that there shall be fruit that will remain. He and Mr Estall probably begin a Gospel mission soon. Mr Estall has visited a number of the P.Us. with the lantern, seeking to arouse interest in the spread of the Gospel to those parts where the name of Christ has never been heard. Interest in the foreign field has been developed and increased, and we trust it will be interest of a practical kind. ROBERT R. TODD.

BALLYCLARE.—"You will have a hard pull before you get the people of Ballyclare converted," was echoed by many voices, but our hearts answered back, "There is nothing too hard for God." The devil did try in many ways to upset and discourage us and to make it hard for us. But very soon God proved there was nothing too hard for Him, by speaking to the heart and conscience of the people, and enabling a goodly number to yield to Himself. The first break came on the third Sabbath, and our hearts were cheered to see seven take Jesus as their sin-bearer. The interest kept up to the end, which was shown by the Town Hall being crowded out on the closing night. An old '59 veteran said the closing tea-meeting was most enjoyable and refreshing.

We praise the Lord for all kindness shown us by Methodist and Y.M.C.A. friends. Please pray for the converts. You may have a little idea of the temptation there is in this little country town, when I say there are fifteen public-houses to the 1500 inhabitants. Pray, brethren, pray! M. F. WRIGHT.

KILLYMAN.—A mission was begun in this place on November 29 by Pilgrims Barr and Wright, and is now closing. The language of all hearts here is "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow," for there has never been so successful a mission in this part of the country since the great revival of '59. The services were to have been held in the Orange Hall; but, as it could not be had every night, we were kindly granted the use of the Methodist Chapel, which was crowded every night. On Sunday evenings the meetings were held in the above-mentioned Orange Hall, which is a much larger building, and this also was filled to overflowing.

We experienced the presence of the Lord from the very commencement, and God, by His Spirit, brought home the faithful preaching of His word with convincing and converting power to very many hearts. Upwards of a hundred have professed to find peace through believing in Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

Nor were the blessings confined to the unconverted, for the Christians have received fresh strength and courage on their heavenly pilgrimage. There have been some splendid testimony-meetings, and it was delightful to hear such a large number of both old and young testify to the saving and keeping power of the Saviour. A P.U. is being formed, which promises to be a large and successful one. M. REA.

LEGATERIFF.—A friend writes:—"A month's mission was held in the Schoolroom by Pilgrims Morrison and Taberner. From the beginning the meetings were well attended, and on

Sunday evenings the place was usually filled about an hour before time of meeting. Many had to stand, while others were unable to get in at all. Truly Jesus was working in our midst—praise His Name !—and sinners turned from their sins, and found peace with God through the precious blood."

BALLINDERRY.—After two or three days spent in Ballymena at Christmas meetings, a mission was commenced in Ballinderry Methodist Mission Hall, about two miles from Legateriff Schoolroom. The same friend writes:—"The meetings which have been carried on during the past four weeks have not been in vain. Praise the Lord! The people came out very well from the first, and the attendance has kept steady throughout, the work being carried on with much prayer and diligence by Pilgrims Morrison and Taberner, who faithfully raised the standard of the Cross in our midst, preaching Jesus, who saves His people from their sins. The Gospel has again proved the power of God unto salvation to many who have turned from their sins, and are now rejoicing in their newly-found Saviour. Others are under conviction, but the cost seems too great for them. May the Lord open their eyes to see what they are missing before it is too late. We bless the Lord for the manifestation of the working of His Spirit in the Christians' meetings, many getting the victory and speaking a word for Jesus for the first time. Meetings go on for a few nights longer, and we are looking to God for showers of blessing."

Several other places are opening up in this district. The Lord Himself give the blessing, and bring many to know Him, to love Him, and serve Him!