

MISSION TO LEPERS.

Work amongst Suffering Lepers of India and the East.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Bailey were, on Thursday night, welcomed by a large and representative audience in Trinity Baptist Church, who gathered to hear of the interesting Christian work being carried on amongst the lepers of India and the East through the instrumentality of the Mission to Lepers.

The Rev. Mr. Weeks filled the chair, and when the meeting had been opened by Rev. Mr. Glassford and Rev. Mr. Smith with devotional exercises, the chairman in a few remarks introduced Mr. Bailey, who proceeded to give an interesting and touching review of the work of the Mission.

He referred in terms of gratitude to the interest already manifested and the help given by the people of Guelph and expressed his great joy in having this opportunity of meeting these friends. To give some conception of the extent to which leprosy exists he explained that the number of lepers in India equal about 45 times the population of Guelph and in Japan about 19 times. He graphically described the general condition of the poor lepers, how they were in outcasts from home, friends and at large. The disease of leprosy is described as being similar to that referred to in the Old Testament books of the Bible and it is incurable, and the medical opinion goes to prove that though under certain circumstances it is contagious, it is not regarded as being infectious, and a great deal may be done for the lepers without running much risk.

He pointed out how hopeless is the condition of the leper, both temporarily and spiritually. The man or woman who shows symptoms of this dread disease at once loses caste, and so the poor sufferer believes that all former hopes of entrance to the better world are thus blighted. The Brahmin, for instance, on becoming a leper, is at once disassociated from all his former privileges and comes down from his pinnacle of social standing to the equality of a pariah, and the Hindu at once forfeits all claim to the rite of Hindu burial.

Mr. Bailey then told the story of how the "Mission to Lepers, in India and the East" came into existence, and explained its objects. He said the objects of the Mission are: (1) To alleviate the suffering of the afflicted ones; (2) to supply their simple wants; (3) and to preach to them the glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ. He told of how the Mission was born of prayer and nourished in faith, and how that ever since then it has always been carried out on these lines. The Mission has never been in debt, and never makes appeals for financial help, and yet all its needs have been abundantly supplied. At the monthly prayer meeting in Edinburgh all its needs are presented at the Throne of Grace and are invariably met by voluntary contributions. Mr. Bailey referred to the recent visit by his brother, Mr. Wellesley C. Bailey, to India, and said that the Government of India are now seriously considering the whole condition of the leprosy question in that empire. A leper bill is being prepared, in which it is proposed to make provision for the erection of government homes for lepers under private supervision, and for all vagrant lepers to be compelled to enter these homes, and thus it is believed that in time the system of isolation will be so successfully carried out that the disease will ultimately be stamped out of the country. Considerable negotiations have already gone on between the Government and the Leper Mission.

Mr. Bailey announced that already the Mission is working in 41 centres in connection with the missionaries of sixteen evangelical societies. These missionaries are all, as far as the Leper Mission is concerned, honorary workers, so that the funds of the Mission go directly to the support of the lepers and the

of us can do something to help, Mrs. Bailey told of a little girl in Sheffield who had become so interested in the work amongst the children that she quite voluntarily came forward with the sum of two shillings and sixpence (about half a dollar), which she had saved towards buying herself a watch, and offered this for the Mission, and she afterwards got up an entertainment in her home, assisted by her sister, to which friends were invited, and a small sum charged for admission. The proceeds of this, which amounted to several pounds, she sent to the Mission. In Gloucester a little boy (son of a clergyman of the Episcopal Church) was so much interested that he went from door to door soliciting from each about two cents. He was accompanied by a schoolfellow, who knocked at the doors and carried the bag while little Johnnie did the asking, and in this way they raised quite a large sum.

The audience appeared much interested and the meeting was closed with prayer and the benediction.

how little is it

He said that the spiritual results of the work are most encouraging, and that some of the homes are now practically all Christian, and in showing how the lepers appreciate the efforts put forth on their behalf, he instanced the case of three lepers who, on one occasion when a great famine was raging and the missionary could not admit more

satisfied with half rations if the missionary would admit the lepers lying outside the gate and divide the other half with them.

The missionaries who labor amongst the lepers speak most hopefully of this work, and many of them have stated that their brightest, best and happiest bit of work is amongst the lepers.

In his concluding remarks Mr. Bailey pointed out how such work as this is bound to have an effect for good on heathendom at large, because the heathen must and do notice that while the relatives of lepers cast them off and their religion does nothing for them, the representatives of the Christian religion, on whom they have no claim, step in and lovingly and tenderly care for and provide for the wants of the lepers, and at the same time present to their hopeless and desponding minds a religion which offers immediate and present salvation, not only from the punishment but the power of sin, and a religion which brings joy and peace into the lives of those who accept it. He then pressed upon his hearers the great responsibility which rests upon all who are enjoying the privileges of a Christian land, privilege and responsibility he said God has inseparably linked together, and these poor sufferers are united with us in the great bond of human brotherhood. He told how a Scotch divine one day in Glasgow saw a little girl on the opposite side of a wide street suddenly lift in her arms a boy nearly as big as herself and amidst a great risk and with apparent difficulty carried him safely through the crowded street to the other side, and as she stood panting and puffing for breath, he remarked: "My little woman that was a heavy load for you to carry," to which she replied, "No sir, he's not heavy, he's my brother." If we remember," said Mr. Bailey, "that these poor sufferers are our brothers and sisters, any little work we can do for them will not be heavy, and any help we can give them will not be irksome to us."

Mrs. Bailey, on rising to speak, announced that she would principally confine her remarks to information about the work amongst the children. It is most touching to see the dear little ones early in life victims of this dread disease and very little can be done for them except to try and make their young lives as bright as possible; but sad as that sight is nothing can be more pathetic than the case of bright young lives free from leprosy or any other disease confined to the precincts of these homes of the "living dead," to see these little ones as yet untaunted sleeping on the same bed with a mother already far advanced in the disease and eating with her off the same plate is not only pathetic but alarming. She was glad to say that already eight homes had been erected in which these little ones were cared for, and that the results had been most satisfactory. In the first of these homes erected only one child had developed the disease out of the large number who were received. She told of how the story of the children had touched the hearts of people in England, how many people had come forward offering to undertake the cost of supporting some of them, and how in the City of Sheffield about seventy poor factory girls had agreed to give the sum of one half-penny per week or about one cent to support two children, the cost of which is about \$2.50 each per year, and that in Birmingham a number of poor women belonging to a Bible class having heard of this also decided to give a similar amount. One of these women who had been living with a sister until her death was obliged at her sister's death to sell all her possessions. Their special treasure was the piano and this being sold realized in English money £4. When this poor woman heard that was the amount required to support a leper child she very gladly gave it for this purpose, and said she would endeavor by hard work to raise a similar amount for next year.

She spoke of a missionary's wife in Travancore, Mrs. Osborn, who had been working most unselfishly and with much personal self-sacrifice amongst the lepers before she heard of this Mission, and how that, because of the death of many of the parents, several little ones had been left on her hands totally unprovided for, and that she was seeking for friends willing to undertake the support of some of these. To show how each

Lord Rathlin Tries to Prove the Marriage—General Lake in Dummallow. "Strange that all this should have happened without a hint of it ever coming to my ears," said Lord Rathlin, looking straight at Finnigan, who nervously dusted his powdered wig, looked down the floor, coughed, shuffled with his feet, and generally gave signs of being uncomfortable. At last he blurted out "I know it."

CHAPTER XV.  
A Story of the Irish Insurrection of 1798.

THE REBELS OF RATHLIN HEAD  
OR  
DERMOTT'S BELL