

640

THE WHITECHAPEL HERALD

March,

A LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

1923.

Whitechapel Primitive Methodist Mission.

Centres : 1.—Brunswick Hall. 2.—Working Lads' Institute & Home. 3.—Homes of Rest, Southend-on-Sea.

Superintendent—REV. THOMAS JACKSON, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

Assistant—REV. J. E. THORP, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

MOTTO FOR 1923.

"There hath not failed one word of all His good promise,—The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers."

1 Kings viii. 56-57.

The total of Weekly Free Suppers supplied by the Whitechapel Mission - - to Destitute and Homeless Men is - - **120,000.**



The Free Night Shelter for Homeless Men at - - Brunswick Hall - - befriended, - - with Food and Shelter, **15,000** Men.

240 Homeless and Unemployed Men were entertained to a Christmas Dinner at Brunswick Hall.

Superintendent's Notes



Thomas Jackson.

Christmas, 1922, will be long and gratefully remembered by some 3,000 poor persons who received timely cheer and help by the ministries of Whitechapel Mission. We can say with strictly literal truth that "*the poor we have with us always,*" and the record of our Mission proves that "*we do them good.*" By means of our social agencies and evangelistic endeavours we have brought light to many who sat in darkness, and liberty to those who were bound. As all roads proverbially lead to London, so we aim at all our activities helping in producing social betterment and spiritual results. The parable of the "*Certain Samaritan*" is our up-to-date guide as we daily journey "from Jerusalem to Jericho" in our East End diocese. Amidst the nostrums and babel clamour of socialism, fabianism, communism, bolshevism, and sundry other ante-Christianisms, we endeavour to continue on the even tenure of our way, having as our daily rule, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." Giving—not grasping, construction—not destruction, self-denial—not self-indulgence, are our watchwords, and to those who criticise the parsons and despise the church, we ask in vain that they shew us a more excellent way. So for forty-six years in succession we have endeavoured to make Christmas in East End slums the occasion for rehearsing the old, old song of "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men."

* * *

Some Christmas Items.

**Gifts of Coal to 180 families.
Parcels of Clothing and Groceries to 200 families.**

Boots & Clothing to 200 men.

Cash Gifts to 150 women.

Treat and Toy Distribution to 1,200 children.

Dinner to Unemployed Men, 240.

Women's Meat Tea, 160.

Home Lads' Dinner and Treat, 56.

All our workers had a good measure of weariness in ministering to the needy, but all had their joy and satisfaction increased as the result of extra work.

* * *

Three Cheers for Cadnam.

Early in the New Year we received a renewed proof of the deep interest taken in our Mission by friends in the New Forest. Under the leadership of our friend, Mrs. Snook, of Cadnam, the young people of that village



Christmas Treat to Whitechapel Bairns.

worked splendidly and raised nearly £10 to give a tea and treat to 400 waifs and cripples. When, at the treat, we called for three cheers for those who had provided so welcome an entertainment, clapping of hands, stamping of feet, and shouts were the response. It was a sight that had pathetic as well as pleasing aspects, and will long be remembered by helpers and guests alike.

Purton Primitives' Generosity.

It has for several years past been to me an annual treat to visit the Wiltshire village of Purton. The type of Primitive Methodism found there, if not noisy, is robust and impressive. There are seldom empty seats in the neat chapel, and the congregation is a most attentive and devout one. The prayer meeting at the close of the Sunday evening service is a welcome contrast to some of our large town chapels, for very few leave, and the voice of prayer and praise tell of a “refreshing season from the presence of the Lord.” Our friends there have for years remembered the needs of our Mission, and have most generously assisted us. Their gifts of vegetables have gladdened us and helped hundreds of poor families. Purton's contribution last Christmas was twenty sacks of vegetables, and we had a busy time in distributing their valuable and welcome gift. We feel it to be a treasure to have such friends.

* * *

Surprise Gifts.

From a friend at Highgate we received a box of oranges; our generous supporter, Mr. J. D. Kiley, J.P., sent us a valuable gift of toys, as also did Miss Hitchman, of Walthamstow. Our veteran helper, Mrs. Hook, in addition to collecting 2,000 farthings, sent us a bale of most welcome articles. Mrs. Hall and her sister, Miss Hunter, of Swindon, sent useful articles and gifts of tea and sugar, to cheer our numerous widows. Not for many years past have we received so many kindly contributions of cast-off clothing and Xmas gifts from friends. If we cannot mention all their names, we none the less appreciate their support and are most grateful for their interest. Nothing came amiss. Fashions old and new in garments were alike welcome,

and hundreds of adults and children in Whitechapel were made the happy possessors and wearers of clothing that formerly adorned and comforted Primitive Methodists and others in the country. Our Mission occasioned surprise to not a few of our Jewish clothes dealers at Christmas and revealed to them that they had not a monopoly of the trade in old clothes. It was a most lively time in unpacking and repacking parcels, receiving and distributing the gifts.

* * *

Carol Singers.

Several parties of carol singers made melody for the benefit of Whitechapel Mission funds. It was

cheering to us to be informed how readily the listeners responded when told a collection would be made for Whitechapel. Our friend of many years, Mr. W. Dann, of Whittington Moor, not content with his



Mr. Wm. Dann with his Violin.

Christmas dinner collection for us, started off with his sister carol singing. We give our readers a photo of friend Dann with his violin. What a lovely sight! A violinist, 77 years of age, and his sister, 72 years, playing and singing for the benefit of East End slum work. May rich blessing and lengthened years permit of their singing carols for us for some Christmas seasons to come.

Women's Missionary Auxiliaries

There are a few Women's Missionary Auxiliaries in the Connexion, which, while not abating their interest or effort on behalf of Africa, think that the semi-heathen dwelling in the sordid conditions of East End slums have some claim upon their pity and help. For several years past the Great Western Street Branch, Manchester, has sent us a donation of £5 annually, and our thanks are tendered to the members, and specially to Mrs. and Miss Neilson for their kind assistance. There are, doubtless, many more branches, who only require the need and claims of such work, as we are doing, to be made known to them to ensure a generous response. Will some of our lady friends make a note of this.

* * *

Glazebrook Greetings.

For many years past Mr. Robert Allen has been the medium of the greetings of the Glazebrook Primitives being sent to White-



The Mayor of Stepney, Councillor H. Kosky, J.P., sampling a Penny Dinner.

chapel with a collection of £9. It was my privilege years ago to visit this Lancashire village to preach and lecture, and a grand time I had. The premises, church, and congregation inspired feelings of gratitude and admiration. I shall long remember that enjoyable visit. I would recommend any Primitive Methodist, who is disposed to be pessimistic and concludes that the best *has been* and not *is to be*, to visit amongst other places Glazebrook. I venture to think it will do him more good than reading the latest book on *auto-suggestions*.

* * *

My Old Circuit.

Petre Street Circuit, Sheffield, will always loom large in my mental vision and retain a warm place in my heart. Conversion, membership, first efforts in open-air preaching, Sunday School teaching, leading on to being a local preacher, Circuit Missionary, and call to ministry, courtship, and marriage, all centre in Petre Street. Fifty-seven years have passed since I first began to pray, and consecrated myself and all I had and hoped for to my Saviour. Nearly all my comrades and friends of those early days have finished their earthly course, and are now "with Christ Jesus, which is far better." I hope to re-visit the scenes of my first endeavours as a Primitive Methodist in July next to preach and lecture.

* * *

The Evening Standard of Dec. 22nd, last.

We were favoured by the Editor of the *Evening*

Standard with a column and quarter article on Whitechapel Mission, free of all charges, by Sir John Foster Fraser. This eminent journalist and writer paid a surprise visit and had an interview with us. The outcome was the most interesting article named, which increased interest in, and support for, our Mission. The following are a few extracts from Sir John's article:—

"Nobody west of St. Paul's knows very much of Thomas Jackson, for he has lived his past 47 years in the blacker parts of the East End. . . . Often I read paragraphs about West End ladies who simply wear themselves out organising fancy dress balls at Claridge's and the Carlton and the Hyde Park Hotels for charity, but Mr. Jackson is a cheery man, and the charities he runs are situated in the condemned Brady Street area, famous Sidney Street, and the Jack-the-Ripper district. It is a little hard for people who live West of

Piccadilly to realise the surroundings of the Whitechapel Mission. And yet the work is done as though the world is full of sunshine." To the Editor and Sir John Foster Fraser we record our warmest thanks. "*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*"

* * *

Brunswick Hall Xmas Concert.

To claim the conditional promise by the Trustees of the late Sir W. P. Hartley of £10 in aid of special gifts to needy and deserving families, our Brunswick Hall friends held a concert and worked splendidly to make it a success. Their efforts were rewarded by the sum of £17/5/- being raised, which, with the £10 before named, was spent in giving cheer and help to worthy families. We were able to aid by this sum of £27/5/- those known to us, who have toiled long years, and yet have not been able to provide for the proverbially "rainy day." This item of Xmas activity was a very pleasant one, and occasioned gladness to both giver and receiver.

* * *

Hospital Sunday Fund

Whitechapel Mission for years past has had the leading place in the list of Primitive Methodist Metropolitan Stations contributing to the Hospital Sunday Fund, and last year was no exception. The explanation of a Mission such as Whitechapel raising so much, is that the people have a mind to work and give. Weeks prior to the Hospital Sunday they have their boxes, cards and envelopes, and all stray coppers



Whitechapel Young Men starting off for a Hospital Sunday Collection.

get ear-marked for the Hospitals. Then on the Sunday street boxes are well used, and young and old at the services bring an offering. For the past four years the amounts raised are as follow :—

1919	...	£200
1920	...	£300
1921	...	£105
1922	...	£201

Total for four years £806.

* * *

A Missionary Tour.

It is not possible for me to accept more than a few of the many invitations that reach me to serve as Missionary deputation. The plea urgently made is, "we want to have the Home work explained to our people." We respond so far as possible to such invitations, giving preference to Ministers and Circuits who have shewn interest in and rendered us support.

Blackpool Circuit. February 4th to 8th I was serving at Blackpool. There are not many ministers who have served more frequently as Missionary deputation during the past 46 years than I have. Many stirring and successful seasons have been experienced by me, but I think the premier position must be given to Blackpool. Three services on the Sunday, public meeting each evening, with a Women's Missionary Auxiliary afternoon meeting thrown in, and chapels crowded at all meetings. Missionary fervour and enthusiasm at white heat. Not many years ago, when my friend, the Rev. John Bradbury, went to superintend Blackpool Circuit, the missionary revenue was some £14. He soon set about quickening interest in missionary work, as in other matters, and started the ball rolling, which, by the skill and devotion of his worthy successor, Rev. David Oakley,

has now reached a total of £226. I was hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson, who are deeply interested in Missions. Without any suggestion or prompting from me, brother Oakley told the friends that as I received no grant from the Missionary Committee for Whitechapel Mission he would like them to shew their appreciation of my services by giving me a contribution, and £21/3/6 was the response, making the total raised nearly £250. Well done, Blackpool!

Boston Circuit. From Blackpool I travelled to Boston for Missionary services and was entertained while there by Mr. and Mrs. Salter. We have excellent Chapel and School premises in a first-class position in this town. We had good congregations Sunday morning and evening. In the afternoon the Mayor and Corporation formed part of a large congregation at the unveiling by me of a Memorial Tablet to the late Alderman W. Greenfield, J.P. After my tribute to an old friend, I was asked to speak on our rescue work, and a collection of £7/14/- was given me. The prayer meeting on the Sunday evening was a time of great blessing, and the wish was expressed that I could have remained to conduct a week's revival services. Monday afternoon I addressed a Women's Missionary meeting, then a tea-table talk, and the public meeting, which followed, was the most numerous attended of any the oldest members remembered. On Tuesday the meeting was in the neat village chapel at Kirton Skeldyke, and all seats were occupied. Five years ago when the present Minister, the Rev. J. S. Claque, went to the Circuit the total missionary income was some £11; this year Boston Society alone raised £35. *Well done, Boston!*

Wesleyan King's Hall, Hull. From Boston I journeyed to Hull, where I was the guest of the Rev. Cecil D. and Mrs.

Eades. In response to his hearty invitation I gave a Lantern Address on “Whitechapel slums and the work we do in them.” King’s Hall, with its numerous smaller rooms, is splendidly equipped for evangelistic and social work, and most excellent work is being done under the superintendency of Mr. Eades. We had a remarkable meeting, attended by upwards of 1,000 adults. A moiety of the collection, £5/10/-, was handed to me for Whitechapel. Again we say, *well done to King’s Hall!*

Cradley Heath. I next visited my old friend, John Dudley, and his present Circuit, Cradley Heath. The weather, trade depression, and consequent distress, did not contribute to make the prospects bright for the Missionary Anniversary. The three services on the Sunday and two on the following day passed off most successfully, and instead of the Missionary income suffering by adverse conditions, the Minister and friends were gladdened by being able to report an increase of some £3. The chain workers of Cradley Heath are passing through trying times, but our cause there gives great promise. Cradley Heath deserves the *well done!*

* * *

Our Next Annual Meeting.

Any reader of the Whitechapel Herald who is able to visit us on Monday, May 14th, at 3 p.m., will be a welcome visitor to our Annual Meeting at the Working Lads’ Institute, 279, Whitechapel Road. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor will preside, supported by the Lady Mayoress, the City Sheriffs, Sir Stuart M. Samuel, Bart., the Mayor and Mayoress of Stepney, the President of the Conference, Rev. G. Armitage, the Rector of Whitechapel, Mr. W. Tyler, J.P., and others. The Rev. J. T. Barkby will at this meeting unveil a Portrait of the late Sir W. P.

Hartley, the gift of the Whitechapel Mission. The report of the past year’s work will be of exceptional interest. The only “fly in the ointment” probably will be of a financial character. Still, we shall deal with difficulties when they arrive.

* * *

Leeds Conference Resolution, June, 1922.

Those, who were present at the Conference last June, when I was permitted to speak on the Report of the Whitechapel Institute and Home, will agree that my plea that Whitechapel Home for Orphan lads should share in the contributions of the Circuits for work on behalf of Orphans, was sympathetically received and approved. The resolution passed by Conference, “recognises the heavy financial responsibility, which, under present arrangement, devolves upon the Superintendent, his colleague, and the Committee of Management. With a view to aid the section of this work affecting Orphan Lads, the Orphan Homes Management Committee shall consider the possibility of rendering such financial assistance as may be possible.” Eight months have passed, and we have received no intimation whatever that the will of the Conference has taken effect.

* * *

Home of Rest Anniversary.

On Easter Monday the Annual Meeting of the Home of Rest will be held at the Home, Marine Parade, Southend-on-Sea. The Whitechapel Seaside Holiday Homes are Connexional property, and the Church reaps any financial and other benefit derived from them. The



Mrs. Tyler, Matron of Holiday Homes.

Matron will have a remarkable year's work to record, and the increasing popularity of Homes Nos. 1 and 2 is most encouraging. Needy Primitives from various parts of the Connexion have been admitted free or at small charges, and many are grateful for the timely help rendered them.

* * *

After Many Days.

I was preaching at our Manor Park Chapel a few weeks ago, and at the prayer meeting following the evening service an incident occurred, which startled the congregation. An elderly man came out of his seat and went to the Communion rail, and in a loud voice said, "Friends, thirty-seven years ago I visited the old Theatre, Clapton. I was then unsaved and a miserable sinner. That night I heard Mr. Jackson preach and found salvation. I became one of his members, and here is the first class ticket I received (waving it over-head). I had to leave Clapton shortly after my conversion, and going to reside where there were no Primitives I joined the Wesleyans and am in membership still. I had not seen Mr. Jackson for many years until this evening, but I owe him more than I shall be ever able to repay. With all my soul I say, God bless you, Mr. Jackson." When we sang the Doxology that evening it was felt by all present to be a time of spiritual refreshing.

* * *

When I was a Hungry Kiddie.

We received a visit recently from a gentleman who was not known to us, but his object in visiting us was a very praiseworthy one. He informed me that thirty-six years ago he was a half-naked hungry kiddie, and found his way to the Children's Free Breakfasts I was then giving. He attended each



Penny Dinner Guests.

morning for several weeks, until his father obtained employment and removed from the neighbourhood. "That kindness shewn me," he said, "and the kind words spoken to me were the means of leading me to decide to live a definite Christian life. I have come to thank you and give you a donation towards the cost of your Children's Penny Dinners." To us it was a stimulating interview and supplied an additional proof that the "bread cast upon waters is seen after many days."

* * *

A Kindly Reminder.

Those of our annual subscribers who have not as yet favoured us with a renewal of their support for the current year will not overlook the fact that our accounts **close for audit on the 31st of March.** The trying times many of our friends experience will, no doubt, explain why some do not respond, but we trust any who can renew their subscriptions will do so. We are very wishful to close our financial year without a deficit. We give our best of time, strength, and means, to the work which was never more encouraging than at present, and we have confidence that the supporters of White-chapel Mission, when they realise our need, will, so far as they can, render us the needful aid. We have suffered to a greater extent than in any previous year through the loss by death of generous subscribers. We hope new friends will be found to fill some of the gaps made in our list of helpers.

The Extra Ministry.



Mr. H. E. Kinchin,
Police Court
Missionary.

A minister's best work is not always done in the pulpit; in fact, pulpit work has to be followed up to be effective. So it is with our Rescue work. All is not done within the walls of the Institute. Lads have a habit of growing and getting older, and the time comes when they must leave us. It is

good to take the wanderer from the street, or First Offender from the Court; it is better to clothe, feed, and care for him; it is BEST of all, when, as he goes out to depend largely upon himself, to know there is an Institution and an organisation which will keep in touch with him and will continue to be “a covert from the tempest and the shadow of a mighty rock in a weary land.”

So “AFTER CARE” is no small part of the work of the White-chapel Mission and often brings cheering results.

Lodgings are found, friends are raised up, and in every case an introduction is given to some Church.

Within recent months eight lads have been dealt with in this way, and in every case but one the issue has been perfectly satisfactory. One lad has developed into a fine manly Christian and is now an active Sunday School worker on the New Cross



The type of Orphan
First Offender our
Home shelters.

branch of the S.E. London Mission. Another is a smart lad giving great satisfaction at Lloyds, where he is employed. All his spare cash goes to help his widowed mother. Another lad has removed his lodgings, so that he may be nearer and may attend our own Church at Brunswick Hall.

Four other cases are those of lads who were in our Home, but further and more restrictive discipline was necessary. We kept in touch with them during their detention, and through our influence an early release was secured and they came back to us with excellent characters. They have been placed in situations by us, homes found for them, and they are doing well. They also are regular attendants at one of our East End Churches and are almost in daily touch with myself.

We face the problem of the neglected and hooligan, and even criminally inclined type of boy, in its acutest form. Can he be won to steady habits, to appreciate the virtuous life, and to find pleasure in the services of God's house? The above instances are proof that he can; therefore we continue our labour. Even if the success were less, we should still carry on, for we are convinced that the work is worth doing and it is worth doing well.

H. E. KINCHIN.

First Impressions.

“Of such is the kingdom of heaven,” our Master said of the children, and it was my pleasure and very easy to realise this on the day of their Christmas treat and my first day at the Whitechapel Mission. Their scanty attire and stunted growth spoke of poverty in most cases, but this was forgotten for the moment as they trooped in obeying the injunction of the old Nursery Rhyme, “Come with a whoop, come with a call, and come with a good-will, or don't come at all.”

On Monday I became acquainted with the Soup Kitchen guests. Shall I ever forget it? How I envied the centipede with his hundred legs as I rushed about helping to satisfy the chorus of "soup, please," "pudding." The other side of the room was full of men, equally clamorous, though not so demonstrative. On Monday afternoon I met the mothers at their meeting; the kindly remarks and friendly hand-shake lessened considerably my home-sickness. Later, as I assisted at the Men's Brotherhood, I was forcibly impressed by the practical endeavour to carry out the Master's command, "Feed my sheep." Peter had dined ere that command was laid upon him, and our brothers had a meal ere they received spiritual food, and I felt the presence of Christ was really in our midst that night.

The Women's Fellowship was my next experience, and I felt that the bright singing and simple homely talk was appreciated and made a bright spot in the week's work.

Thursday evening brought a good many children to our Children's Service, and, judging from the mischievous remarks and roguish expressions on their faces, they were out for a good time, probably at my expense! I think they were disappointed, but not too much, for they still come each week, and are learning that to enlist in the army of King Jesus is the way to have the best time of all.

After a month of this work I feel, metaphorically speaking, such a drop in the ocean, yet, in my small corner, mainly among the little ones, I am trying to do my bit in the name of Him who was once a little Child.

SISTER FRANCES.

* * *

A Striking Contrast.

To come from a pretty sea-side town in Devonshire to the East End of London (Whitechapel) is what one naturally calls a

change! But the world is composed of many changes and varieties. Of variety in temperaments there certainly is no lack. Of two patients in an infirmary, who shared the same ward, and whom I visited, one remarked she would rather die than remain in; the other looked so happy, with a pile of needlework by her bed, and a smile for passers by. Another sister lives in her tiny room, surrounded by photos of loved ones gone before; in imagination she lives with them, which takes the keen edge off loneliness; while another values such treasures and buries them in the most secret place that her home affords.

The spirit of self in some is very prominent, but in many it is otherwise; poverty does not diminish or destroy a mother's love or sacrifice.

One dear old lady, over 80 years of age and depending on charity, would not be happy until I accepted the first slice of her Xmas pudding. However pathetic and depressing the work of visiting our less fortunate sisters may seem at times, there is so much in it which prevents it being monotonous, though we realise our sympathies are wider than our means, and, coupled with prayer, we need practical help from every available quarter to enable us to break through the hard shell of poverty and reach the kernel and soul of their natures.

Much has and is still being done in various ways to make hearts and homes brighter. By our old soup dinners to children and unemployed men, distributing coal and grocery tickets, gifts of clothing, bright services for children, mothers, and men, we are lifting many by God's help from the miry clay of sin and despondency on to the firm rock, sheltered by Him in every storm of life.

SISTER FANNY.

Incidental Redemptive Ministry. = = =

The incidental ministry often leads to the most surprising results. That which was not in the set programme, but taken up 'by the way,' is that to which we refer. You find many illustrations of it in the Gospel history. Just read Luke xix. and John iv. and you will see how the incidental, that done "on the wing," changed the whole character and the current of life for some people. It was not in the day's programme, but by eventide it had been done. "As Jesus passed by" he dropped a word, stretched forth the hand, and lo! life was changed—a mighty redeeming work had been accomplished.



Rev. J. E. Thorp.

So it is in the life of the Whitechapel Mission. The set programme is big enough but it is only a part of our activities, and that which was not purposely arranged, but was done because it just came in our way, often brings the most gratifying results.

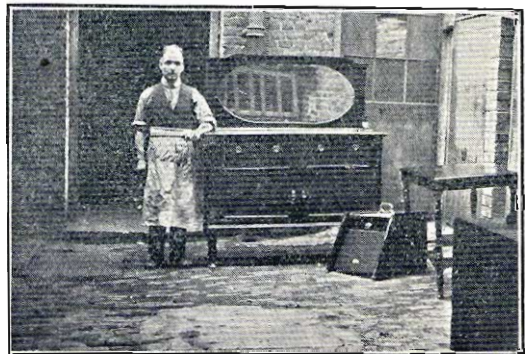
Only this week a man came to me to ask if we could help him. He was summoned to appear for something which, in the eyes of the law was wrong, but in my eyes was only foolish. Knowing the man, I was sure he was incapable of deliberately committing a criminal wrong. He received a letter to take to court with him. The Inspector said to him as he went into the dock, "You will not come out with less than three months." After the charge had been made, the Magistrate held the letter up in open court, saying, "Work-



The Homeless we care for.

ing Lads' Institute; Mr. Jackson; Mr. Thorp! I cannot send this man to prison with this letter before me. I shall bind him over and I don't think he will act so foolishly again." How much this little service has meant to that man and his family!

A city magistrate interested himself in one man who appeared again and again before him. He choose a way of crime which involved no social stigma, and he did the wrong which infringed least upon the moral law. He seemed to have lost all interest in and concern for the affairs which appeal to the ordinary citizen, and time after time he threw himself into the stream which washed him into the solitude of the prison retreat. He had lost his will to hold his place among men; he had got out of step with the world and had no desire to regain it. The normal operations of the law had no relativity to such a case. Some warm human touch without cant or officialism was needed. The magistrate dealt with him privately and had a chat with him as man to man. The result was that he was provided with tools and a workshop. We were asked to assist; for a year this man's work and interests have been made a part of our own. He has worked in the basement of the Institute, and steadily recovered his will to live and labour.



The Man and his work.

"And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it."

The picture on previous page illustrates some of his handiwork and the articles of furniture now form a part of our own Home.

They are a tangible expression of the worth of trying to understand the heart of a man who had lost his way, and prove that timely and practical assistance can achieve redemptive results in very unpromising cases.

So with the arranged programme and ministries which fall in our way we continue to apply the gospel of the extra mile and the second coat.

JAMES E. THORP.

* * *

The late Mrs. Kinchin.

On Wednesday, March 7th, we paid a last tribute of esteem and respect to a worthy Christian sister, who has "fought a good fight, finished her course, kept the faith," and is now with the Saviour she long loved and served. The faith in, and by which she lived, was the source of the radiant hope that illumined her dying bed. Physical febleness and the infirmities inseparable from advanced age did not dim her spiritual vision or weaken her sympathy with Christian service, specially that which aimed at the social and spiritual welfare of needy and unfortunate lads. She could not in recent years take an active part in Church work, but she worthily served by accepting domestic inconveniences occasioned by the important duties of her husband in Prison and Police Court rescue labours.

Her kind and motherly interest and attention to lads, who had gone astray from the path of virtue, did much to win them back to respectable and righteous conduct. To not a few of such lads her name will be fragrant and her memory blessed.

By the good Providence of God our departed sister was privileged to reach the ripe age of 80 years. For the period of 58 years she had an unbroken membership in the Church of Christ, and in a quiet unostentatious way made the welfare and prosperity of her Church the subject of her prayers and the object of her best endeavours. We feel the loss to our Church of such a godly woman and regret our deprivation, but we sorrow not as those without hope. We would forget our sense of loss in the confidence of her eternal gain, and remember that though death removes our nearest and choicest friends from us, the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother," says, "Lo! I am with you alway."

To the husband and family of the late Mrs. Kinchin we extend our most tender and prayerful sympathy. They alone can fully estimate the loss they have sustained, but it will be a mitigation of their sense of loss in knowing the esteem and high regard in which the departed was held by her friends. With the consolations of our Heavenly Father and the hope the Gospel of Christ inspires, they will be comforted and sustained in this their time of need.

To us all, this event should be a forceful reminder of our own mortality and admonish us to be prepared for the uncertain hour of the coming of the Son of Man, and our departure from this life. It should induce us to re-consecrate ourselves to the work allotted to us in the Church, and by renewed devotion to our Divine Lord and His cause, serve our generation according to His will.

*Yours faithfully
Thomas Jackson*