

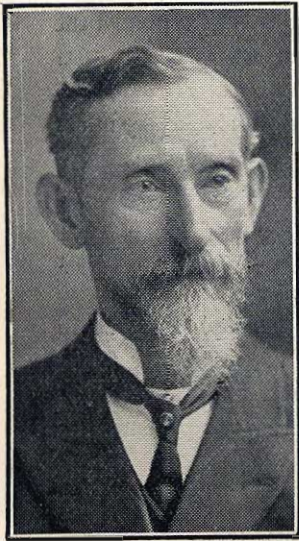
THE WHITECHAPEL HERALD

July, **A LIGHT IN DARKNESS.** 1926.

Whitechapel Primitive Methodist Mission.

Centres: 1.—Brunswick Hall. 2.—Working Lads' Institute & Home. 3.—Homes of Rest, Southend-on-Sea.
Superintendent—REV. THOMAS JACKSON; Assistant—REV. J. E. THORP: 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

MY JUBILEE YEAR'S GREETINGS.



Thomas Jackson.



J. E. Thorp.



H. E. Kinchin.



Wm. Jackson.



Mrs. J. E. Thorp.



Sister Ruth.



Sister Kate.



Mrs. Tyler, Matron.



Miss Arthur,
Assistant Matron.



Miss Banham,
Assistant Matron.



Mrs. Tomson,
Assistant Matron.

The Mission Staff: Thomas Jackson's Colleagues in his Jubilee Year.

The Superintendent's Jubilee Reminiscences.

My numerous friends and supporters will scarcely need to be assured that their expressions of appreciation and hearty congratulations have been, and are, very welcome and inspiring to me upon reaching the Jubilee of my ministry in East London. They invariably express the desire and hope (D.V.), that further service will be mine in behalf of the needy and poor. For all the generous financial aid and encouraging words I have received during the past fifty years from friends near and afar; for all the loyal and devoted co-operation of colleagues and helpers; for the saintly life and unstinted and self-sacrificing service of my dear wife; and above all for the continued presence and help of my Heavenly Father, I can best express my present feelings by the words,

*"For all the Lord has done for me,
I never will cease to praise Him."*

* * *

Early and Timely Friends.



*Late Rev. S.
Conway, B.A.*

I made the acquaintance of the late Rev. Samuel Conway, B.A., in rather novel circumstances. The old Independent Chapel, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, had been taken by the Rev. R. S. Blair for three years at an annual rent of ten shillings, and the General Missionary Committee appointed me to open a mission there, in addition to my work in Bethnal Green. As the chimney flue with which an old stove was connected required sweeping, and as I had no funds with which to pay a sweep, I set about sweeping it myself, and was to all appearance

a professional sweep, when Mr. Conway walked into the Chapel and asked me if the Primitive Methodist Minister was on the premises. I said, "You will be able to see him here in half an hour's time." "Give him my compliments and tell him I will call again shortly," said Mr. Conway. When he returned I had attended to my toilet and introduced myself to him as the Primitive Methodist minister. He gave me a very hearty greeting and assured me of his sympathy and that of his deacons in my efforts to gather in some of the poor of the locality. I thanked him and assured him I should do my best to succeed. He then said, "You will excuse me, but you look very much like the sweep I saw here half an hour ago." I informed him I was the sweep when he first called but I was a minister now. He mentioned this incident to a wealthy member of his congregation, who was so amused and pleased, that he sent me a cheque for £20 in aid of the mission. In many ways I found Mr. Conway a generous friend, and as the work prospered he expressed his pleasure and appreciation.

* * *

An Unexpected Visitor.



*Late
Mr. Bartholomew.*

We had a congregation of three persons when we started in the old chapel, which seated 600, but open-air services and house-to-house visitation soon began to tell, and when we had established a good society, Sunday School, Band of Hope, Tract Society, and other agencies, we concluded it was time to Mission another needy district. Open-air services were commenced and subsequently a wooden shed, known as the old Skittle Alley, was lent us and opened as a Mission Room. It was a

model ramshackle structure and in the opinion of some of our friends was quite unsuitable for services, and of course to expect success was hopeless. This, however, was not my opinion. It was the best we could get, and our aim was to use it until we could secure something better. We had not laboured long before we received tokens of the Divine favour. Some of the men who in the past had played skittles there, and spent much of their hard earned wages in drinking and gambling, got converted. At a lovefeast one Sunday evening thirteen men stood up and testified that God had for Christ's sake pardoned their sins. The gracious work reached the ears of a Congregational deacon, the late Mr. Bartholomew, who paid me an unexpected visit. It occasioned me no little surprise that a gentleman in his position should call at my humble dwelling and ask for an interview. He stated that he had been informed of the good work being done in the Skittle Alley, and he would like to help me in securing a more suitable room. I thanked him and said, “For £150 we could put up a neat wooden Mission Room that would meet our present requirements,” and I asked him to give me that sum. He seemed somewhat taken aback by my bold request, but he subsequently agreed to give me the amount, “But,” said he, “You have no land to erect a Mission Room on, and resolute as you are you cannot build in the air.” I replied saying that the Lord who had inclined him to promise the £150 would direct me where and how to secure land.

* * *

Ask and Receive.

The unexpected visit of this gentleman, and the welcome surprise he had given us, led my dear wife to propose that we have a prayer and praise meeting; and so together at the Throne of Grace we praised our Heavenly

Father for what we had received and sought His further help and blessing in order to obtain the needful land. The next day I resolved to wait upon a gentleman who owned a plot of ground that was in all respects suitable for a mission room and ask him to



*The late
Mr. John Hitchman.*

present it to our Connexion. I told Mrs. Jackson what I purposed doing, and she gently advised me not to be too sanguine, but said, “I will pray for you and hope you will succeed.” I started off that evening on a mile and a half walk. When I arrived at the home I found the gentleman at home and was granted an interview. I mentioned the work we were doing in the old Skittle Alley, our pressing need for a more suitable room, and the generous offer I had received for a new mission room. I then reminded him that he had a plot of land that would suit us admirably for the erection of a mission room and asked him to give it to the Primitive Methodist Connexion. He received my appeal at first in silence, then looking very seriously at me he said, “Young man, you have certainly attempted great things in that old Skittle Alley, and succeeded, and you have come to me expecting great things by asking me to give you that freehold site. I compliment you upon your devotion and success, and I have decided to encourage you by giving you the land you desire.” As I was not in a Primitive Methodist home I had to say “Hallelujah” inwardly, and then thank the gentleman for his splendid gift. That evening I made one of the most generous supporters it has been my privilege to have during the whole of my ministry, namely, the late Mr. John Hitchman.

* * *

A Dear Ministerial Brother.



The late Rev. R. S. Blair.

The first minister whose acquaintance I made in London was the late Rev. R. S. Blair, and this led to a life-long friendship. As I had to be my own Superintendent, and was inexperienced in practical Circuit administration and Chapel building, I inadvertently committed some irregularities and did not always conform to rule, but I never sought advice from friend Blair in vain. His counsel and encouraging words in the early years of my ministry were most helpful to me and I am greatly his debtor. He at first strongly disapproved of my attempting to open a mission in Whitechapel and take the derelict Working Lads' Institute with a debt of £9,000, but when he saw the success with which that enterprise was blessed, he lent me his support and for years assisted me as Hon. Secretary. He was one of the most assiduous ministers London Primitive Methodism has had and many in East London have arisen to call him blessed.

* * *

A Trophy of Saving Grace.

In the early years of my ministry I was brought in contact with a sad case of the ruinous effects of intoxicating liquor. I had seen a man several days in succession reeling about in the street in a deplorable condition, and resolved to attempt to reclaim him. I ascertained his name and the street in which he resided,

but not the number of the house. I enquired at twenty houses before I found the one desired. "Does Mr. G. live here?" I enquired. "Yes," was the reply. Without being invited I entered and found the man I sought in a terrible condition, having previously had an attack of delirium tremens. He was surprised and alarmed at seeing me and was about to attack me, but was held back by his wife and a brother who were keeping guard over him. I exercised all the tact and pleasantry I could command for upwards of two hours and succeeded in getting him to sign a total abstinence pledge. I had to steady his trembling hand while he signed. I prayed with him and invited him to come to my home the next morning instead of going to knock the publican up to get brandy. He took me at my word, and the following morning at 4.30 o'clock a loud knocking was heard at my door. I hastily dressed and admitted him. He was trembling as though seized with a violent attack of ague. Mrs. Jackson prepared early breakfast, and then our guest pleaded to be my companion for the day, and I consented. I invited a friend to accompany us on an excursion to Epping Forest. In the afternoon we entered a cottage for refreshments, and while waiting to be served, we were startled by our companion falling upon his knees and in a loud voice praying, "Lord, have mercy upon me and save me." That evening at our Class Meeting he had his name entered on the Class roll. He again re-



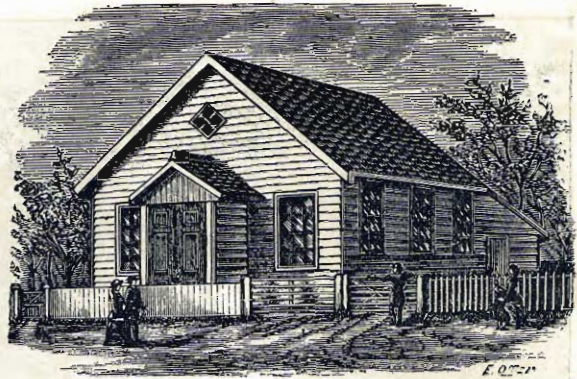
The late T. Greenwood.

sumed work as a marble mason, prospered in business, and the first £50 profit he made offered it to me as a personal gift. This I refused and it was applied to the fund of a New Chapel I was building. He became one of my most generous supporters and during his life contributed upwards of £1,000 to the Mission and Connexion. With the remembrance of my friend Greenwood's conversion and restoration I cannot doubt the possibility of any poor sinner's recovery.

* * *

Despise not the day of Small Things.

The accompanying illustrations of the first Chapel I built and opened free of debt and Brunswick Hall, the last I acquired and is debtless, will supply evidence that from very small beginnings the Lord has remarkably prospered us. I have learned by experience not to "Despise the day of small things." My first Sunday evening congregation in London when I commenced the service con-



My First Chapel.

sisted of one man, and as he could not sing I had to sing a solo, but I remembered that He, who promised, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst," was there, and I must do the best of which I was capable. "Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost" I have steadily kept in mind during my ministry, and results have convinced me that I have acted wisely. In pioneer Home Missionary work in London slums it does not do to be at all fastidious. Take the best you can get and resolve to make better of it. If any Christian worker, and

especially a young minister, should be tempted to be depressed and discouraged by having small and discouraging conditions to grapple with, I should advise such to cheer up and toil on in faith and hope, "The little one shall become a thousand."

* * *

Feeding Hungry Children.

The first free tea and treat to slum children I was responsible for providing, after my arrival in London, was



The latest Chapel acquired.



Necessitous Children at the Free Breakfast.

paid for by a gentleman who had previously been unknown to me. He wrote me asking me to call and see him at his city office. I accordingly did so, and he informed me that he had heard of me and the work I was doing. He then asked if I would provide a tea and treat for 150 of the poorest children I could find and he would pay the entire cost. I very heartily thanked him for his generous offer and assured him I could find one thousand guests if he cared for me to cater for them. He desired me to give the treat on LORD MAYOR'S day saying, I shall enjoy my luncheon at the Guildhall all the better by knowing that at the same time 150 waifs are having a good meal and treat at my expense. During my visitation to the homes of the children, distributing tickets, I was so shocked and distressed by the squalor and wretched conditions in which I found many of the children, my pity and sympathy were so stirred that I resolved, God willing, that for the future the needy and helpless children should have all the special attention and help I could render them. For several years, at irregular intervals

owing to lack of funds, we supplied free meals during the winter months when distress was acute. The movement for supplying daily free breakfasts for necessitous children attending Elementary Schools was hastily begun. It was a novel feature in Primitive Methodist Home Missionary work. I called at a large London Board School one severe

wintery morning and found the head teacher in a depressed mood in consequence of thirty of his scholars being faint and ill, because they had left home without breakfast that morning, and had had little food during the previous days. I asked him what number of children of the thousand or more on the School register were compelled to attend school unfed and underfed. He estimated that not fewer than three hundred. I then stated that if he would send tomorrow 300 such children with a ticket having the date and school stamp impressed on, I would supply them with a good meal of bread and jam and cocoa at 8 o'clock in our School Room.

* * *

A Remarkable Record.

That morning a work for necessitous children was inaugurated which grew to large dimensions. Years before politicians and civic authorities manifested concern respecting unfed and starving children, who were compelled by law to have lessons taught them when physically unfit to learn them, Primitive Methodism and some other Churches led the



The Mayor of Stepney's Visit.

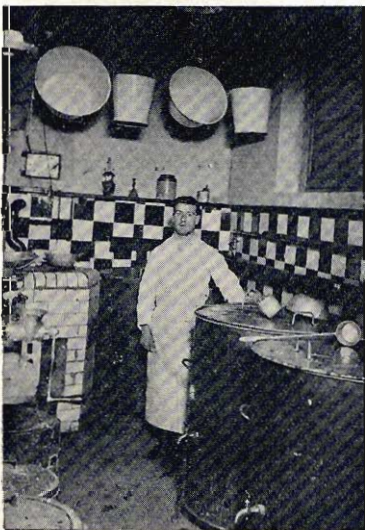
way to present day recognition by the State of its duty towards necessitous children attending public Elementary Schools. The work we commenced forty years ago at Clapton Park Tabernacle was subsequently extended to Southwold Road, Clapton; Philip Street, Hoxton; and Whitechapel; and a total of upwards of **a million free meals** is

registered to the credit of that branch of our work.

* *

Free & Penny Soup Dinners

It was during the winter of 1884-5 that we first arranged for



The Soup Kitchen.

a temporary soup kitchen. Much distress prevailed among the working classes and specially those who were unskilled and dependent upon casual employment. We supplied 10,000 dinners of soup and bread to men, and soup to be taken to the homes for women and children. Each winter since, when conditions have called for this type of service to the needy, we have resumed our soup kitchen operations. The total of half a million meals have been supplied. No question of class or creed

has been entertained. In this section of service, as in all our work, we remember the words of the Apostle James, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you shall say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;' notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

* * *

Medical Missions.

I was influenced in my decision in the year 1891 to start a medical mission by the evidence of much physical suffering among the poor, who were unable to pay for a private doctor, and who were averse to applying to the Poor Law. I mentioned my intention to the late Mr. L. L. Morse, of Swindon, who was during his lifetime one of my most generous friends. He cordially approved of the proposal, and gave me a



Mr. J. Calow.

donation towards the initial expenses. A fully qualified doctor was engaged, a stock of drugs and nursing appliances purchased, and a room set apart for a dispensary and consultations. Only the really necessitous were to be permitted to have medical advice and medicine, for which a charge of twopence was made. The success of this new departure was immediate and remarkable. We afterwards opened a branch dispensary at Hoxton, and later on one at Whitechapel. When the Health Insurance Act and the Panel Doctor came into existence our Medical Mission became unnecessary, and was discontinued. The total patients our medical officers assisted at these dispensaries was 225,000. It was a visit to our Whitechapel Mission by Mr. Joseph Calow, of Lingdale, that led him to take up the work of assisting medical missions in all parts of the world, and specially to aid our African Missions. The fact of his being born on the same day as myself and in the same town, Belper, occasioned his feeling of a special interest in our work. After visiting Whitechapel he supplied us with all the medical preparations we required free of charge; and by the time our medical work was discontinued his gifts amounted to a total of £600. Medical missions of all denominations, and in particular ours in Africa, have derived advantages and help in consequence of that visit of Mr. Calow to Whitechapel.

* * *

Holiday & Convalescent Homes.

Easter Tuesday, 1892, was the day when we entered upon a new enterprise at Southend-on-



Home of Rest.



Holiday Home, No. 2.

Sea. Being wishful to aid worthy and needy persons who required rest and change of air in order to regain health and strength to resume their employment, we hired a furnished house for six months as an experiment. Success followed. Large premises were hired until we secured the site on the Marine Parade, and erected the present Home of Rest at a cost of £4,200. This was opened at Easter, 1901. Our Holiday Home, No. 2, was purchased March, 1919, for £1,500. A similar amount was expended in furnishing, altering, and re-decorating the premises, and it was re-opened on the following Whit-Monday, debtless. The Homes are open to members of all Churches, and those who can pay the full charges, as well as those who cannot pay them, are equally treated and welcome. The total number of visitors who have been entertained at the Homes is 25,000. The day we opened the first temporary Home we also commenced the Southend Mission by holding an open-air service on the sea beach. The present Southend Circuit is the outcome of that service.

* * *

Poor Man's Lawyer.

It was by the sympathy and generous aid of the late Mr. E. C. Rawlings that I was able to introduce a new feature into our work. I had consulted him respecting several cases in which poor persons were suffering from evident injustice, owing to their inability to pay for legal advice. I suggested to Mr. Rawlings the formation of a Legal Bureau, or Poor Man's Lawyer, in connection with our

Mission. The year 1891 saw this work of the Poor Man's Lawyer started and has been continued up to the present, and has become so popular that each year for some time past has registered upwards of 3,000 poor clients assisted.



Homeless at Supper.

For thirty-five years this useful work has been continued and we are deeply grateful for the gratuitous services rendered by the late Mr. E. C. Rawlings and his partners, the late Mr. Percy Morse and Mr. R. J. Sparkes.

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Homeless Men's Weekly Supper.

The first question we ask respecting the man who is homeless, a down and out, is not, "Why are you there, what brought you there?" but, "What can be done to help you to better conditions, aid you to regain lost character, and assist you to become self-supporting?" Our remedy is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and what it implies. We have, therefore, for the past thirty years aimed at following the example of a "Certain Samaritan" who journeyed from Jerusalem to Jericho. Week by week this class of London's flotsam and jetsam has gathered to a weekly meeting at our Mission. A plain meal has been given them, followed by a gospel address and

conversation with the men. The aggregate attendance amounts to 120,000. Many tragic and pathetic stories have been told us, and we have often seen illustrated that "The way of transgressors is hard." The saving power of the grace of God has transformed not a few, who have formed our motley company from week to week. One man testified that he had been happy only once after he was converted. "When was that?" he was asked. His reply was, "Ever since."

* * *

Free Night Shelter for Down and Outs.

My first contact with the homeless sleeping out was some forty years ago. At that date the down and outs were allowed to sleep out in Trafalgar Square. I spent a night there in search of a prodigal son who had left a good Primitive Methodist home in the provinces, and his distressed parents solicited my aid in an endeavour to discover him. What



Homeless in Shelter.

I witnessed that night led me to resolve to hold an early morning service in the Square. The Rev. W. Sawyer, who was temporarily assisting me, heartily co-operated. At 4 a.m. we commenced to sing as a duet the hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' Name." We soon had an audience of several hundreds, and had evidence that the hymn was well known to many present who heartily joined in singing. A more respectful attention to our addresses could not be desired. Our meeting closed sharp at 5 a.m.—the time when the police cleared the Square. On a following morning we were accompanied by a gentleman, who gave a surprise to the company by supplying four hundred with tickets for a good breakfast at a refreshment house near Covent Garden Market. Information we received occasioned us to visit the notorious Ratcliff Highway. We visited a large lodging house known as the thieves' kitchen and invited the inmates to a free tea in a neighbouring Mission Room. One hundred and six men accepted our invitation, and after the tea we adjourned to the kitchen and held a service. At first it seemed a perfect Babel and pandemonium. A solo, with chorus, followed by the charm and inimitable humour of my dear old friend, the late Mr. George Nokes, prevailed, and we secured a respectful hearing. We continued these meetings weekly during that winter, and received the grateful appreciation of many for interest and sympathy. The free night shelter for *down and outs* which we opened some years ago, enabled us to render more substantial assistance to this unfortunate class, and has resulted in the social and spiritual salvation of many. The total number of admissions to Brunswick Hall Free Shelter is 35,000 men, and 70,000 free meals have been supplied.

The Women's Own.

In each Mission we have opened we have given special attention to week-day meetings



Women's Meeting.

for women. Such are the domestic and other circumstances of many poor women, that attendance at Sunday services is practically impossible. For this class we have aimed at providing a bright gospel service on a week-day. We had to grapple with difficulties in starting these 'Women's Own' meetings, but in each instance success rewarded our efforts. The first meeting at Whitechapel had its amusing features. Only four women attended, two of these being intoxicated, and during the meeting they asked us to sing "*Dolly Gray*." The same four women composed our audience for a month; then we had the satisfaction of getting each to sign the Temperance Pledge, and two were converted and became members of the Mission. Hundreds of poor women have been associated with the Whitechapel Women's Meeting since that time, and at present seldom fewer than 400 women meet weekly at Brunswick Hall, and 130 meet in Church fellowship.

Entirely Closed for Want of Funds.

It was thought, by some friends, to be a rash act on our part to propose taking the derelict Working Lads' Institute and begin the Whitechapel Mission with a debt of £9,200, and no congregation or members.



Institute and Home.

We, however, felt we were led of the Holy Spirit, and had no misgivings as to the step being a right one, and success being assured. Both Mrs. Jackson and I had counted the cost of making White-chapel our home and future sphere of service. We well knew what such a step would involve and were prepared to subordinate personal comfort and interests to the claims of the poor and needy of that notorious district. Events have proved that, if we attempt great things for God, He will do great things for us. The opening of a Home for destitute, orphan, and homeless lads was another new departure in our activi-



The Foster Mother.

ties. Dormitories were prepared and furnished, and our first guest was a poor lad who never knew his father or mother. The accompanying illustration shows Mrs. Jackson welcoming him to the Home and promising to be a mother to him. Her saintly and priceless service in mothering hundreds of poor lads is one of the most precious possessions of our memory, and many in various parts of the world have most grateful and affectionate remembrance of her. The inclusion of first offenders in our orphan family of lads has produced remarkable results. From all the Metropolitan Police Courts and many Provincial Courts we have taken under our care hundreds of lads; and, by the blessing of God, have given them a successful start for a useful and respectable career. Concerning this branch of our work praise is heard in many Courts by many Justices. We act upon the belief that no lad is incapable of becoming a worthy citizen and a Christian.

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Prison and Borstal Cases.

In addition to dealing with first offenders, we have dealt with hundreds of discharged prisoners and Borstal cases. Most cheering proofs of reclamation and recovery have been recorded, and the labours of our Probation Officer have been rewarded by cheering success, and complimentary acknowledgments by the authorities.



A First Offender.

A Memorable Event.

* * *

Our golden wedding was duly honoured on Christmas Day, 1922. Previously we had

received a legacy of £1,200 from a personal friend. Mrs. Jackson and I agreed that the best way to show our gratitude to God for the many blessings He had bestowed upon us was to present a thank-offering on the occasion of my 72nd birthday, on the 16th of October, 1922. This we did by erecting Belper House at a cost of £1,460; and presenting it to the Connexion for the benefit of the Whitechapel Mission. We little thought how soon the tender ties that had linked us together in domestic happiness and companionship in the Lord's service were to be severed. In the following July she was not, for God took her. "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight."



Belper House.

My Jubilee Testimonial.

In memory of Mrs. Jackson, and in recognition of my having completed 50 years' ministry in East London, I ask my many kind friends once more to further cheer and encourage me by helping me to raise the sum of £2,000 to be presented to the Whitechapel Mission. This amount will be invested and the interest used to give needy adults a free holiday at the Southend-on-Sea Homes, and also to purchase clothing for orphan lads sent to us from Police Courts. It will give me more delight, as I am sure it would have given to my dear wife had she been spared, than any personal



The Presentation.

gift could do, to know that my Jubilee Testimonial is to help the poor and needy. I therefore appeal most earnestly to all my esteemed supporters, and any who would like to be associated with the Testimonial, to render what financial assistance they can, so that at the Jubilee Gathering to be held in the Mansion House, under the presidency of The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, on October 18th, 1926, we may unitedly share in the joy of a complete success.

Yours faithfully
Thomas Jackson

GIFTS.

Give to the world your smiles,
Scatter them day by day;
Like rays of light on a darksome night
They'll brighten some pilgrim's way.

Give to the world your song
From wells of laughter drawn,
It may cheer a soul as the billows roll
O'er waves of doubt be borne.

Give to the world your love,
Purest, most priceless gift;
To the farthest clime on the wings of Time
This wondrous power may drift.

Preston Brook. [Copyright] BEATRICE A. EYRE.