A celebrated Hindu religious fair is held annually in January and February at the small village known as “Rin-mochen”, at a point where Amraoti, Murtizapur, and Daryapur talukas meet, in the province of Berar, India. There are several temples near the village on both banks of the Purna River, but the main shrine, from which the village and fair take their name, is the phallic emblem of the Shevite worship, centered on an uncovered platform, bathed, beflowered, and circumambulated by thousands of Hindus during the four Sundays of the fair.

“Rin-mochen” means “freedom from debt”. A distinguishing characteristic of India is debt. It is surprisingly widespread. The poorer classes might be said to be nearly all and always in debt. The cash made in crop season must be used to pay principal or interest on money previously borrowed. Large debts are commonly contracted in connection with the wedding expenses of the various members of the family. The house (there is no word for home) is often mortgaged. Even the well-to-do
frequently mortgage all their possessions in connection with their very expensive weddings. How popular, therefore, is this shrine of Shiva, whose especial prerogative, at Rin-mochen, is to free from the burden of debt!

I was told by a village headman that the real meaning of Rin-mochen is "freedom from the debt of sin". Whether then, the devotee comes seeking spiritual or financial freedom from debt at the shrine of Shiva, we know that it is but a vain quest.

It had long been my desire to go to Rin-mochen fair, but I had never found it possible. This year it seemed more than ever impossible. After more than a year of increasing weakness, I was, in the month of November, led down into the very valley of the shadow of death. Twice my heart action all but ceased, and all the signs of approaching death were evident in my body. Then God turned my captivity in answer to the cry of hundreds of His faithful intercessors and so healed and strengthened me that I was able by the middle of January to make the 29 mile trip in the motor with the workers and the light trailer to camp at Rin-mochen. Since November I have gained over 50 pounds in weight and am well. His is all the glory.

The reason I wished to go to Rin-mochen was that I, too, wanted freedom from debt. I used to be in debt to the Devil, but Jesus paid the debt with His own blood and divided the spoils with the strong and rescued me. Again, Satan got a strangle hold on my body, but our blessed Lord in mercy delivered me. By these deliverances He has put me in everlasting debt to Himself. He has asked me to pay something on the debt I owe to Him, to His other sheep whom also He must bring. Some of these I knew would be at the fair with the longing to be free from debt. I was debtor to get to them if possible with Gospel literature, and with the witness that whom the Son makes free is free indeed. In so far as we had faith and were obedient our love-debt to Christ was paid.
Christ has indeed freed you and me from the burden and debt of sin, but we are not yet free from the debt we owe through Him to the world—the debt of proclaiming the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to every believer, be he wise or foolish, atheist, idolator, or spiritist. “Owe no man anything but to love one another.” What are you doing to pay your love-debt?

“We owe to every child of sin,
One chance at least for hope of heaven.
Oh, by the love that brought us in,
Let help and hope to them be given.”

A. I. GARRISON.

SANKALBAI.

“Lord, help us to find Sankalbai,” thus we prayed as we drove over rough roads through woodland in our creaking cart to a distant village in the cool of the early morning. Two years ago we had been brought in contact with this little Hindu widow, whose heart we believe the Lord had touched, and now, in answer to prayer, we are delighted to find her ready to welcome us as we enter her village. On our last visit there we left with her the story of a converted Brahmin widow and since she is not educated she had asked her Hindu guru (teacher) to read the little book to her. After reading a few pages he returned the book and forbade her to show it to anyone else, but finally she found a little boy who could and would read for her, and now after long weeks and months of sitting at the Master’s feet with no other teacher but His Holy Spirit, she is ready to confess Him publicly as her Saviour.

Heathen neighbours crowded closer and silence reigned as this happy little widow related the story of her deliverance from sin and her joy and faith in her newly found Saviour. “You may laugh at me and persecute me
but it does not matter for my Father lives in here,” (pointing to her heart). Then she said, “Look at your crops, all ruined by the frost, but my Father has caused my bins to be filled and my cotton field is the only one in this district that is not ruined. My Father has revealed His love to me.” She clapped her hands with joy—real joy which could never be a Hindu widow’s portion outside of Christ.

The heathen audience stood quietly by as she talked and several of the young people seemed to be more affected by her testimony than by our message. Many corroborated her statements that she was a changed woman, a worshipper of the true and living God, and then one man asked, “Is she now a Christian?” Yes, we feel that she has been led and fed by the Shepherd of the flock and that He is finding in this lonely heart a warm welcome. But, there are still “other sheep” for whom He gave His life. Won’t you help us through prayer to find them and bring them to Jesus?

JULIA G. WOODWARD.

BIBLE ATLAS MADE INTERESTING.

Step out beside our school room and we will show you the land of Palestine. The class in Bible Geography have made a large relief map of Palestine for project work. It measures 49 x 35 ft. while Mount Hermon rises about two feet above “sea level” and the Dead Sea is several inches below the Mediterranean shore. The literal configuration of the land is shown, with the central mountain range and the mountains to the east of Jordan built up to the proper height. The streams and lakes are outlined in ashes, while markers represent the places of the important towns and villages. Mount Carmel has a little altar on it, Beer-Sheba and Shechem have tiny wells and Dothan a little pit for the boy Joseph. Jerusalem, being the
capital, has a flag waving over it, while the cities of refuge are marked with blue. Jericho is graced with palm trees, while the country of the Gadarenes has a single pig in it to represent the herd that was demon-ridden and rushed into the lake.

It has been no small undertaking to make such a map, but the students have gone at it with a will, and while our work is not perfect, it gives a much clearer understanding of the Holy Land than an ordinary map can. Anything that makes the stories and the Saviour real is worth the effort. Today we have started tracing Abraham's travels, and a white string shows his moves from place to place. Other O.T. worthies will stalk across our hills and valleys, until the Son of Man Himself appears in His ministry and passion.

Remember the students during the vacation, which begins April 20th and lasts for two months. Some will be giving out the gospel, others witnessing as they labour with their hands. Our students who have been out in several months' service will return in June for a final term before receiving their diplomas. Pray with us for a fruitful session during the summer.

RAYMOND H. SMITH.

"WHAT SHALL WE DO? TELL US MORE."

Leh was one of the interesting towns which we were privileged to visit this touring season. Upon our arrival the usual crowd of men and boys gathered about us. We sang a hymn and then the Catechist began earnestly to unfold the Gospel. At first the crowd listened in a half-hearted manner, but later a marked interest was manifested. When the Worker finished I also spoke briefly pleading with the people to forsake sin and idolatry and worship the one, true, living God. Then Bro. Fletcher brought the concluding message emphasizing the necessity
of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The now interested crowd, hearing that we had Scripture portions containing more of this Good News, bought about fifty Gospels, in addition to which we distributed many free copies to interested listeners.

As we were about to take leave of this friendly crowd, an elderly man, who by his garb proved to be a Guru (religious teacher), edged his way through the crowd to Bro. Fletcher and eagerly said, "Will you come to my house and tell us more of this Story, and what we ought to do?" Surely such an earnest entreaty could not be refused, so while I stayed near the car and talked with those who surrounded us, Bro. Fletcher accompanied this man to his little hut. An hour later I too found my way to the Guru's dwelling and there found Bro. Fletcher seated at one end of a dark, low-ceiled room with a group of about twenty-five men squatted on the mud floor before him eagerly drinking in the old Story. As I looked into their faces I could not help but notice the happy expressions they bore. Truly they looked more like a group of hungry seekers after God than raw Hindoos. Before leaving them we bowed our heads and in an audible prayer reverently committed them to the keeping of the Holy Spirit. How glad we were to leave a Bible in their midst to be used as a lending library by anyone who could read and who wanted to seek the Way of Life. Please pray for God's blessing on this silent messenger, and also on the many other New Testaments and Gospels that were left in other towns throughout the year.

In a later visit to this village we were glad to find that the Book had not been laid aside, but that the Guru, in whose care we had left it, and others were finding much spiritual benefit from reading it. Again he and several others gathered around and seemed glad for another opportunity to hear more of the dear old Story so new to them.

E. W. CROCKER.
A VISITOR'S IMPRESSIONS.

The Apostle Paul more than once mentions his great joy at the report of the spiritual advancement of his converts. The joy of the "Man of Sorrows" is seldom mentioned, but when the disciples returned with the report of their work of faith and labour of love in the towns of Judea, Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, "I thank thee, O Father,......that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." There is perhaps no greater joy than the joy of seeing the fruit of the Spirit in the lives of those amongst whom one has toiled. We have just attended the Regional Conference of the Alliance work in Gujarat, and have heard messages from the lips of our Indian brethren which have provoked us to love and to good works. Thirty years ago these workers and pastors were little Hindu boys gathered into our orphanages as famine waifs. Today they are trained leaders of our Gujarati Church, Spirit-filled, balanced and exemplary.

The last day of the conference was set apart for the reading of four papers prepared by leading pastors and laymen of our Gujarati Church. The first paper on "How can we make our Church self-supporting?" was a thoughtful and splendid paper. The discussions that followed brought out many angles of the problem which were presented and vigorously discussed, yet there was a spirit of love throughout. The next on "What should be the relationship of the true church member to a member who has been put out of Church?" was to our mind a splendid treatise on that subject, based on the Word of God. No compromising with sin was admitted, yet withal a spirit of love was enjoined toward the erring one. A difficult question came out in the following discussion as to whether in the event of one party of a married couple being found in sin, both parties, or only the guilty one should be excommunicated. The third paper on
"How much should properly be spent on weddings?" provoked a lively discussion, but the eventual conviction of the assembly was that weddings should be simple enough not to require debt, and that under no condition should parents marry their daughters for a monetary consideration. The last paper concerned the arrangements for carrying on the "Hirshwartaman," our little Gujarati monthly paper. The spirit of love in which all these discussions were carried on, and the thoughtful and enlightening propositions made, and the agreement of the vision of so many in the conference with our own vision, and the loyalty to the Alliance, all these things combined to fill us with a deep joy, and with the confidence that should we who are now the foreign leaders be compelled to leave, we have men who will carry on the work with all the loyalty to Christ and the wisdom that we ourselves covet.

A. I. Garrison.

"I AM DEBTOR."

I am a debtor to my fellow-man;
To one and all there is a debt I owe.
Pay off this debt in full I never can;
This DEBT has placed on me a mighty woe.

With all the strength that does within me lie,
To give God's message I must ready be,
With all mankind there is this heavenly tie,
As long as life does last I'm never free.

Each day with man I will this bond renew,
Eternal Gospel of God's holy Son,
The Holy Ghost, the heav'nly pow'r which drew
My heart to Him, and made me God's own son.

This living Gospel I must far proclaim
To all mankind of high or low degree;
For on each heart Christ has a holy claim,
That it from sin's dominion might be free.
And as to foreign lands I’m called to go,
No matter in whatever clime it be,
I know there is no living, earthly foe
But over which He gives full victory.

And when my task on earth at last will o’er,
I stand within the presence of His love,
A debtor I’ll remain forever more,
Joint-heir with Christ in heaven’s home above.

JAS. F. BRABAZON.

NEWS ITEMS.

The ‘big meetings’ held on the old camping ground at Mehmedabad, Gujarat, from March 28-31 and attended by upwards of 1,000 well-groomed Alliance Christians from five districts, were fraught with much joy and blessing. The main messages of the convention were brought by Revs. Moyser, Carner, Garrison and Smith, while several of our Gujarati brethren devoted themselves as ‘helpers’ in conducting preliminaries, prayer meetings, children’s meetings etc. Special music, pleasantly rendered by our girls and boys from Kaira and Dholka Boarding Schools, was a new and attractive feature of the convention. The largest audience was on Sunday when the Christians present added to their previous offerings over $570 for the rebuilding of the historic Mehmedabad Church—the birthplace and home of many of our first generation Christians.

We thank God for the warmth of Christian fellowship enjoyed and pray that the blessings received might be translated into everyday life.

Rev C. W. Schelander had the privilege of participating in the blessings which attended the three days’ jubilee services held in March by the Scandinavian Alliance Mission in Dhulia, West Khandesh. Twenty-five years ago this Mission began work on a small scale among the
Bheels on the Satpura Hills. Today their activities radiate from fourteen stations in the provinces of East and West Khandesh.

On this joyful occasion Saddhu Sundar Singh and Rev. Deshpande of Poona were the principal speakers. In the evening a procession of over 1,000 Christians, carrying banners and singing hymns, made a deep impression on the Hindu and Mohammedan onlookers as they lined the streets.

Middle of April Rev. and Mrs. Hostetter and two children from Chandur, Berar, and Rev. and Mrs. Ringenberg and two children from Mehmedabad, Gujarat, having completed their first term of service in India sailed from Bombay for furlough in U. S. A. We commend these tired workers to your prayers that they might enjoy the full benefits of their native air as well as God's blessing on their ministry for India in the homeland.

Hot season weather is chasing most of our Missionaries off to the cooler atmosphere of the beautiful hills of North and South India. For many of us the journey to these shelters from the heat takes three days and nights in a hot, dirty train, so please pray that our temporary release from work on the plains may mean new physical and spiritual vigour for us all.

Pray for our Christians left on the plains that they may learn how to seek and appropriate 'grace to help in time of need' so that Satan may not score any victories in our work during the absence of the Missionaries.