

## CHAPTER XI

### **A Supernumerary**

At the Conference of 1891 I requested to be made a Supernumerary. The request was granted, and I retired from active Circuit work.

For fifty years and more I had been strong to labour; now I was broken down and frail, scarcely able to do anything. I once thought it would be very hard to be like this, but I have found that the grace of God is sufficient. I have heard Him saying to me, "Rest a while, and then I shall show thee what thou shalt do." Beyond this I have not been able to see a step; and I have not cared to see. I have trusted Him, and He has not failed me. I have had many a conflict, but He has given me the victory.

From April to September I was kept quietly resting on the Lord, and waiting patiently for Him. Then He began to lead me in a plain path, and to make me see clearly what my future work should be. I saw more fully than I had ever done the great need of a revival of holiness in the Church, and was deeply convinced that, while earnestly seeking to rescue the perishing, my special work was "to spread scriptural holiness through the land." Then came abundant blessing to my soul, and strength to my body; and the way opened before me to labour again for my blessed Lord.

It was a day not to be forgotten, when, after six months' silence, I was able once more to preach the glorious Gospel. The Lord helped me, and the word was with power. I administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and had sweet communion with my blessed Lord. After the sermon a lady came to me and said with deep feeling, "I came to church tonight without Christ, but He is in my heart now." I had preached from Rev. iii. 20.

For some months the Rev. G. Grubb, a minister of the Church of England, had been holding services in the Colonies, with blessed results. He was now in Victoria, and had spoken with great power at the Christian United Convention. It was arranged that the ministers of the various Churches should meet him in the Y.M.C.A. hall. A large number were present, and Mr. Grubb gave an address that did us all much good. He is a man full of the Holy Ghost, and God has greatly used him.

For ten years and more a band of ministers of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist Churches have met every week to pray for the full baptism of the Holy Spirit for themselves and for all ministers, officers, and members of the Churches. These meetings have been wonderful times of refreshing and blessing. The Lord has been in the midst of us, and has heard and answered prayer. It was determined by the band to hold a Holiness Convention in Geelong, and ask Mr. Grubb to preside. He consented. The Convention was held in the large hall of the Mechanics' Institute. People came to it from all parts of Victoria, and from the neighbouring Colonies. It was continued for four days, with services at 7 a.m., 10.30, 3, and 7.30. From beginning to end the blessing of God was on us, the Holy Spirit spake with power by those who gave addresses, and the results were blessed indeed. The hall was too small to accommodate the crowds who came, not to hear eloquent addresses or exquisite music, but to hear of Pentecostal Christianity, and how it may

be ours. Large overflow meetings were held in the Presbyterian church, close at hand. The missionary meeting in connection with the Convention was one of the most extraordinary I have ever attended. A few of us told the story of our work, and the audience was moved and melted in a wonderful manner. After a few minutes in silent prayer, the President said, "In England, at our Conventions, any of our friends who feel so inclined give subscriptions for Missionary Societies; if anyone is moved so to do, he can bring forward his gift." At once, without another word, one after another came bringing silver, gold, notes, cheques, watches, chains, rings, bracelets, and other pieces of jewellery, and laid them on the table. Of this remarkable meeting *The Christian Colonist* said; "There was no excitement, no hysterics, no rushing from seats and clapping of hands. The Holy Spirit just laid on the people's hearts an intense yearning for the heathen, and gave the world a practical illustration of Apostolic Christianity. It was estimated that the value of the offerings was £1000. After the meeting, forty young men and young women testified to the promoters of the Convention their readiness to go wherever the Lord wished them to go; and ministers who have been in the same churches for many years stood up and said, 'Lord, if Thou dost want me out of my church, here am I, ready to go.'"

During the remainder of the year I preached at many places, held a Convention at Colac, and special services at Mortlake. At every place the Lord was with me, and the word was in demonstration of the Spirit and in power. When my work in any place was done I felt weary, but when any new Mission had to be entered upon, strength was given to me according to my day.

During this year the Rev. Thomas Williams died. He was with me in Fiji, and was a most devoted missionary. He was sometimes misunderstood. He spoke right out what he thought, and by some who did not know him was thought to be harsh and irritable; but a more tender-hearted man, and one more ready to help any in distress, it would be difficult to find. On July 4<sup>th</sup> I heard of the death of Mrs. Hunt, the noble wife of one of the grandest missionaries that ever went among the heathen. These two deaths reminded me of my early days in Mission work, and of one fact that has moved me greatly. In 1844, and till three years after, there were fourteen of us in the Fiji Mission – seven missionaries and our wives. Of the fourteen, my wife and I are the only two now living. My wife was then considered the weakest, and the most unlikely to live long, of the whole party, and yet she is likely to outlive us all.

In October the President of our Conference, the Rev. A. Rigg, died. He was the son of a well-known minister of the English Conference, the Rev. John Rigg, and was a good, thoughtful preacher.

I commenced the year 1892 by attending an All-day Holiness Convention held at St. Matthew's, Prahrau, the Rev. Mr. Blacket, the incumbent, presiding. It was a glorious day. I spoke on being filled with the Spirit. In the evening I presided at a holiness meeting in our Conference Hall. We had a large gathering and a good time – a good number seeking the fulness of salvation.

This was a year of much work and great blessing. I can only refer to some few things. There is no need to do more, as the methods employed and the results obtained were generally the same. I would rather be silent. I only write these things that my Lord may be glorified, for the work is only His.

On the way to the Sydney Convention I stayed at Albury on a Sunday and Monday, and preached and visited the Sunday School, and the Lord blessed us.

Our Convention in Sydney was presided over by Mr. Grubb, whose addresses were very powerful. The large Centenary Hall was packed every day. We had, some evenings, at an early hour to shut the outer gates to keep the crowds back. Overflow meetings were held in large rooms below the Hall. The Convention lasted four days, three services being held each day. The Lord gave me strength to speak at four meetings, and to conduct an evangelistic service at the close, when we had about eighty persons seeking mercy. During the next few days I preached at King William Street Church and the Centenary Hall two or three times, and the power of the Lord was present to heal. At the Convention one of the speakers, a minister, said, "I one Sunday preached on the letter to the Church of Laodicea, speaking of lukewarmness, its guilt and danger. I retired to rest at night, thinking I had faithfully delivered God's message to the people. In the morning I awoke about five o'clock with a strange feeling on me. I seemed to hear a voice saying, 'Get up and go to your study and pray.' I did so, and had no sooner fallen on my knees than my sermon of the previous evening appeared before me, and I seemed to hear a voice saying, 'Thou art the man! Thou art the man!' I was convicted of lukewarmness. I acknowledged my sin, and prayed for forgiveness. And the Lord blessed and healed me." Since then that brother has been a flame of fire, and has been greatly used by God.

During my stay in Sydney the President invited the ministers to meet me. A good many came, and we had a deeply interesting and profitable talk on Entire Sanctification. It was arranged to hold a Ministers' Weekly Prayer-meeting.

### **Australia and Tasmania**

At the end of January we held a Convention in Launceston. The Rev. G. Grubb was again our President. We held our first meeting in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, but we were crowded out. The next three days we met in the Albert Hall, which will accommodate 2500 people, and we had it packed. The Holy Spirit applied the word spoken with great power. At one evening meeting, among many others seeking to be filled with the Spirit, were forty or fifty ministers of different Churches. There was a wonderful influence on all as these servants of God stood up as an expression of their earnest desire. On the platform were some two or three hundred persons, principally young men and maidens. I never saw such shining faces before. I went to one young lady, who seemed to be filled to overflowing, and said, "The Lord is greatly blessing you, my sister." She gave a strange but very striking reply. Said she, "Oh yes! Glory be to God, He is – I've got out of the frying-pan into the fire," using this old saw as it never was used before.

Before the commencement of the Convention I had preached in our church in Patterson Street and at the Memorial Church. When it had closed, they pressed me to hold a week's Mission at Patterson Street. I thought it only right to consult Mr. Grubb, as he was conducting a Mission in an Episcopalian church near at hand. When I spoke to him he said, "Go on, and you can pray for us, and we will pray for you."

I commenced my Mission on Sunday, when I preached twice, and then conducted service every evening during the week. At every meeting we had a large gathering, and blessed results. But the crowning day was the following Sunday. The senior scholars in these two large schools were brought together in Patterson Street. After speaking to them on decision for Christ, I asked them to kneel down and, while we were in silent prayer, settle the question whether they would give themselves to Jesus. After a while I said, "Now, any who have determined really to do so, get up and very quietly go into the vestry; the rest keep on your knees." Soon one came to me saying, "Do not send any more into the vestry: it is too crowded already." Then they gathered in one part of the church or another, little groups with their teachers in the midst directing them to Jesus, and praying for them. It was a glorious sight – one I shall never forget.

We had a united thanksgiving meeting in the Albert Hall. Mr. Grubb presided, and many praised the Lord for what He had done for them. After the meeting I had to bid dear Mr. Grubb farewell, for he was going his way, and I mine. I thank God that I had had the pleasure of meeting and hearing him.

I must record how kind my dear friend Rev. G. T. Heyward was to me and my wife during our stay with him. He and I had many a blessed hour together at the Throne of Grace. We had an old-fashioned Band-meeting every day, kindly but faithfully telling each other of our faults, and praying that we might be anointed with fresh oil.

Our Conference this year in Melbourne was a time of real blessing. Before going into the pulpit to give the charge to the newly ordained minister, a telegram from Rev. G. Grubb, then at New Zealand, was put into my hands. It was: "Acts x. 44. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on them." He and his party were praying for us. The day following, great grace rested on us during the conversation on the work of God; and in the evening we had an overwhelming time. Many were out praying to be fully cleansed from sin, and a good number of our ministers received a fuller baptism of the Spirit. The following day a young minister came to me and said, "I did not get the blessing last night, and I cannot go to my Circuit without it." It was not long before the answer to his prayer was given.

I had engaged to conduct a ten days' Mission at Ipswich, Queensland. On my way I preached at Sydney, Maitland, Armadale, Warwick, and Toowoomba. At Ipswich I gave a Bible reading every afternoon, and preached every evening to large congregations. One evening the Salvation Army gave up their meeting and came in large numbers to ours. At every meeting we had anxious inquirers – some burdened ones seeking mercy, and others, believers, desiring to be filled with the Spirit.

After the Mission at Ipswich I went on to Brisbane, and preached in several churches, and saw the grace of God and was glad. The kindness of one gentleman here I cannot but refer to. He is the son of a dear friend of mine, my Circuit steward when I was in Surrey Hills, Sydney. He invited me to lunch, and after lunch sent me in his carriage to my appointment. Before I left he put in my hands a cheque for £50, saying, "We may not meet again; will you accept this for old acquaintance' sake?" I prized the gift for its money value, but much more for the love and kindness that prompted it. This gentleman's brother in Sydney has more than once sent me a substantial cheque since

I became a Supernumerary. I would like also here to record that a gentleman in South Australia well known for his liberality sent to me, through one of our ministers when I became a Supernumerary, to say that he had settled £25 a year on me. This has been regularly sent. He died two years ago, but his widow has kindly sent it since. And not to me only, but to other Supernumeraries.

Returning from Queensland to Sydney, I preached at Surrey Hills, and had the large communion rail crowded with anxious inquirers. The next evening I conducted service at Bermond, and we had a Pentecostal season. There was a general breaking down – the whole congregation seemed moved. On my way to Melbourne I called at Goulburn and preached in the evening, and then by express started for home, where I arrived next day at noon, thankful to find all well, and praising God for all His goodness to me. He had given me strength of body, and had kept me in perfect peace. I had during the month travelled two thousand four hundred miles by rail, had visited thirteen Circuits, and had sometimes three services – always two – in a day. But my strength never failed. I went to bed and slept as sound as a top, and rose in the morning almost as fresh as a lark. In every service He has blessed me, and hundreds have come out seeking pardon or purity. All glory be to God alone. I preached everywhere on being filled with the Spirit. The Churches need the Pentecostal baptism: then we shall have the Pentecost, holy living, simplicity, power, success, and, perhaps, persecution. May our day of Pentecost soon fully come on all Australasia!

After some days' rest I assisted at a Convention in the Baptist church at North Melbourne. There was a great move among God's people. The vestry was filled with seekers. Then I had a week's Mission in Geelong, where we had a blessed week of grace.

In the United Holiness Convention at Ballarat I presided, and ministers of various Churches took part. The morning prayer-meeting at seven o'clock was a glorious service. Between two and three hundred were present, and showers of blessing fell. At one of the evening meets among the saved were two Roman Catholics. The carpenter who erected the platform was an unconverted man when he put it up; when he took it down he was rejoicing in Christ his Saviour. A teacher sent up a request for prayer that all his class might be saved; and the prayer was answered, for the next Sunday all his scholars decided for Jesus.

The Convention over at Ballarat, I left for Portland. At that time our minister in Portland was one of our most scholarly men. Some of my friends feared that he would have little or no sympathy with my teaching and work. On the Sunday I preached twice and gave an address in the Sabbath school. In the evening, after endeavouring to explain what Entire Sanctification really meant, and showing the way to obtain it, I urged all to go to their knees and answer God's question, "O Jerusalem, wilt thou not be made clean? When shall it once be?" We remained in silent prayer for two or three minutes. Then I said, "If any will say 'Here and now I will be, Lord,' just come quietly out and kneel at the communion table." Someone came very slowly. When I looked to see who it was, how great was my joy to find it was the minister. Others soon followed, till the rail was crowded. The following day the minister said to me, "Ah, I see clearly now the mistake we have been making. We have urged sinners there and then to yield and accept Christ for pardon; but we have preached

Entire Sanctification, and there left it without pressing believers to surrender at once and be fully saved.” During the remaining days of my Mission at Portland the weather was wet and stormy; nevertheless the attendance was good, and sinners were converted and believers baptized with the Spirit.

Returning to Ballarat I preached to a large congregation in the evening, and had the joy of leading penitents to Jesus. Such a blessed influence rested upon us that it was difficult to close the service. At the prayer-meeting the following morning a young woman sought and found mercy who was the last of five working in the same room at a factory: the others were saved during the Convention.

In July I commenced a Mission in Pirie Street Church, Adelaide, giving Bible readings every afternoon, and preaching every evening during the week. Then I conducted a seven days’ Mission in Archer Street Church, North Adelaide, and another week’s Mission in Norwood and Kent Town. At the close we had a thanksgiving meeting in Pirie Street Church. There was a large gathering, and very many rose to testify of good received. To God be all the glory. I bless His holy name for His love and mercy to me. I had conducted thirty-six services, with after-meetings for seekers, and the Lord had given me strength according to my day. I rejoiced greatly to meet my dear Adelaide friends again.

During my visit I went with Sir John and Lady Colton to visit the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Brighton, and I was greatly interested in their method of teaching. One touching case I heard of. A fine little fellow was brought into the Institution, and made great progress, especially in reading from the lips. After some time he went home for a holiday, and running into the house he said, “Mother! Mother!” The poor mother fainted. She had never heard, and never expected to hear, a word from his lips.

We arranged to hold an Annual United Methodist Convention in Melbourne for the promotion of holiness. Our meetings for three days were held in Wesley Church. We had large congregations and great blessing. Ministers and laymen of the different Methodist Churches took part.

In August I spoke at the Christian Convention in Melbourne, at which Archdeacon Langley presided, and then left by express for Sydney, where I had been invited to preside at a United Convention in the Town Hall at Petersham. The Hall was crowded at every service, and I met many inquirers in the mayor’s room, which was placed at our disposal. It was very delightful at this Convention to hear so many ministers of different denominations earnestly speaking on holiness.

At the close of the Convention I went to Newtown, Sydney, to conduct a Mission for a week, and we had a glorious time. Many of the boys and girls decided for Jesus. Some think lightly of the conversion of children; but I cannot, for I am so often meeting earnest workers in the Church, some of them ministers, whom I have seen kneeling at a penitent-form when they were very young. At one of our meetings we had a large number of young men saved. Some cases were very touching. Two mothers were deeply distressed about their sons, and had no idea that they were in the church. But when a number of young men at the communion rail rose to praise God for His forgiving love, to the mothers’ astonishment and joy they saw their sons

among them, and ran to embrace them. One young fellow, the son of a praying mother, tried to leave the church, and had reached the porch when the Lord stopped him. He returned to the church, and sought and obtained mercy.

From Newtown I went to Surrey Hills, my old Sydney Circuit, where God had greatly blessed me. For some time the state of things here was very low. The present minister, the Rev. W. Austin, had been earnestly working, and had pleaded with God for the revival of His work. I gave Bible readings in the afternoons, and preached every evening during the week. We had no great stir. Not a few were converted, and many of God's people baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Before leaving for Melbourne I visited Parramatta and preached in my native town, and had the joy of pointing some seekers to Jesus. On the morrow I went to see the King's School, where I was educated, and the Rev. Dr. Harris, the Head Master, gave me a hearty welcome.

Feeling the need of a little rest, I remained quietly at home for some days, praising the Lord for strength and grace in the past, and pleading with Him to prepare me for further and greater work for Him. He had wonderfully helped and blessed me, so far. While engaged in His work I was, by His help, quite equal to it; when I closed my Mission I felt wearied till the time for labour came again, and then the needed strength was given. Praise His name! I feel more and more the need of much Bible reading, and of being often alone with God. We generally get the power for service, and the anointing with fresh oil, in private.

In September I presided at a Methodist Convention in Daylesford. The brethren, Rev. S. Knight and W. Williams, accompanied me. They both spoke with great power. Brother Knight had met with a great trial in the loss of his highly gifted daughter, but it had been fully sanctified. What a wonderful change has taken place in Brother Williams since he received the Pentecostal baptism! He was always regarded as a great preacher, but he was cold and had little unction. Now he is a flame of fire, and all he says tells powerfully upon his hearers. Some of the local preachers at Daylesford were blessed at the Convention as never before.

Our Annual United Christian Convention at Geelong was held in September. The attendance this year was larger, and a blessed sanctifying influence was in us from beginning to end. The Communion service on Friday morning was indeed a season of refreshing. There were some seven hundred communicants. No one can tell the amount of good this Geelong Convention is doing. People come from far and near, and they carry away the holy fire, and are made a blessing in their own Churches. Christians holding different views are here brought together, and made to feel that they are all one in Christ.

After the Convention I remained to conduct services at our Yarra Street Church on Sunday and Monday. What days those were! How great the power of the Holy Ghost on the people! On Sunday evening forty or more were in the inquiry-room, many of them fine young men.

One young fellow left the church while I was preaching, because, as he said, I pointed at him and spoke about what he had done. He said he would not be insulted; so he left

and went home to bed. When another young man, who slept in the same room with him, went home and told him of what had been done, he jumped from his bed, and fell on his knees and cried for mercy, and the Lord saved him.

Dr. Clarke, of America, the founder of the Christian Endeavour Movement, visited Melbourne and held meetings here, some of which I attended. There is much enthusiasm about the movement. The young people seem to be going into it with all their heart. I hope it will last. The one thing I fear about it is, lest the pledge of consecration be taken for conversion. We must guard this well.

I attended and took part in the meetings of the Centenary of the Baptist Missionary Society at Melbourne and Geelong. Thank God for the missionary spirit that has come upon the Churches during the last hundred years. We may mourn that more is not being done now for the perishing heathen, but we must not forget what has been done. The Baptist Church had the first Missionary Society; but it must not be forgotten that though the Wesleyan Church had no separate society, it had Missions in the West Indies long before any society was founded. We need today the Pentecostal baptism of the Spirit on all our Churches. Then we should have all the missionaries we require – missionaries full of the Holy Ghost, and fully equipped for their work. Then we should have all the money we need for the work. We have too little of God and faith in Him, in our money arrangements; as if He had sent us to do the work, and left us to find the necessary supplies. We must look to Him, and trust Him more fully.

During the remainder of the year I presided at a United Holiness Convention at South Melbourne, conducted special services at Maryborough, and preached occasionally in the churches of Melbourne.

1893. My working days are drawing near to the end, and I feel that in what I have to do there must be concentration. I wish to be, and God helping me I will try to be, a man of one work. I desire always to be able to say, "This one thing I do" – "that I may by all means save some." Where I stand, everything else seems poor and trifling compared to this. I thoroughly believe that to have a great revival, when many shall be brought to God, we must have a revived Church; and in order to this we must have a revived ministry – a ministry full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. I therefore, God helping, seek to help my brother ministers and to lead them into the fulness of blessing. A good many persons, and ministers of different Churches among them, call on me for conversation on being filled with the Spirit. In all my Missions I preach to believers in the morning on Entire Sanctification, and address the unsaved in the evening. In the after-meetings I deal with both classes. My work is generally on the same lines: very monotonous it may be to some, but I know I am doing the will of God, and I can do no other. It is not necessary, therefore, for me to give details of my work: I only record what I believe may help others and glorify God.

On New Year's Day I again took part in a Holiness Convention in St. Matthew's schoolroom, Prahran. It was a bright and joyful day. I thank God that so many ministers of the Church of England in Victoria are in earnest about this holiness of heart and life; they are doing a great work, and God is blessing them. I rejoice that so many of us, forgetting the smaller matters wherein we differ, can meet together so frequently for the promotion of higher spiritual life in the Church. A full baptism of



the Spirit, such as they received at Pentecost, would make us all of one heart and soul. May the good Lord speedily give us that Pentecostal baptism!

Had a long conversation with a captain of the Salvation Army on their methods and results. What a strange and wonderful movement this Salvation Army is! I have never been able to see with them in many things, for I believe if we all had the fully Pentecostal baptism of the Spirit we should not need big drums. And yet they are in downright earnest; they hold saving truth, fully believe in entire sanctification and witnessing for Jesus, and are ever seeking to save souls. I am afraid that General Booth's social schemes may interfere with their soul-saving work.

I passed through Launceston, Tasmania, preaching and holding holiness meetings for a few days on my way to Hobart, where I held a ten days' Mission. I gave them a great baptism of the Spirit, and all through the services they worked well and earnestly. Day after day I gave Bible readings on holiness in the afternoon to a good company of Christian people, and preached in the evening to large congregations. It was thought that there would be some difficulty in getting either sinners or believers to come out to the communion rail or the inquiry-room, but with the power of the Holy Spirit on them there was no difficulty at all. They came in numbers seeking pardon or purity, and found what they sought. My dear friend the Rev. G. T. Heyward was with me, and greatly assisted in carrying on the Mission. At the end of the time fixed they pressed me to continue with them a few days longer, and we had showers of blessing.

I advised the workers, as I generally do, to have each one a prayer-list with the names of two or three persons on it, for whose conversion they should especially pray. Some few I found had, without any consultation with each other, entered on their lists the names of four young men who were generally standing and smoking at the corner of the street near the church. Two of these young fellows were sons of godly parents. One night the whole four came to the church door and looked over the screen at what was going on. The next night they came in and sat on the first form, no one saying a word to them. The third night they came again, when some of the workers got down near them. While I was speaking, the leader of the party got up and hurried up the aisle to the communion rail, where he knelt, praying for mercy. After the meeting we found the other three standing at the gate. I said to them, "So we have got your leader, and we must have you." "No fear," they said, and we left them. The next night they were there again, and another was saved. After I left Hobart, the minister, Mr. Tuckfield, wrote me, "You will be glad to hear that we have another of the young men, and we expect soon to have the fourth." Glory be to God!

I commenced a Mission at Newtown on the following Sunday, with Bible readings on the afternoon and public service in the evenings. At every evening service we had a good number in the inquiry-room, but the work was not like that at Hobart.

At our Conference this year we resolved to have the conversation on the work of God in the afternoon, and a holiness meeting in the evening. Some thought that meetings of this kind interfered with the business for which we came together; but surely of all our business this is the greatest. This will not only not hinder but greatly help all other business. What a blessed opportunity it is, when so many ministers and laymen are gathered together, for seeking and obtaining a fuller baptism of the Holy Spirit! If

more were done in this way, I firmly believe we should not only have greater success in our spiritual work, but should have less financial difficulties to grapple with when we meet in Conference. The Pentecostal baptism of the Spirit will meet our case, and nothing else will.

In May I preached in Dr. Bevan's church the annual sermon of the London Missionary Society. This Society has done good work for the Master in many parts of the world. When a young man I had the privilege of hearing that great missionary, John Williams,<sup>1</sup> whose labours in the South Seas were crowned with glorious success.

A United Missionary Conference was held for four days in Melbourne. Ministers of the different Churches gave addresses. I had the pleasure of taking part. The speech of the Dean of Melbourne was very good. He was then an old man, being more than ninety years of age. In his address he said, "It is not so long ago that I became greatly interested in Missions – only about sixty or seventy years!" The Dean did a good work in Victoria, and was beloved by all.

I was requested by the United Ministerial Association at Bendigo to conduct a Convention there. It was largely attended. The word spoke by many ministers of various Churches was with great power, and from beginning to end the blessing of our God was upon us. When the Convention closed I commenced special services in our Wesleyan Church, Forrest Street, which were continued for eight days, and the Lord greatly blessed us.

The day I commenced the work in Bendigo a gentleman drove me in his buggy to my appointment. As we rode along I spoke to him about his soul. He told me he was not a Christian, and had never been converted. I told him I would put him down on my prayer-list, and ask others to pray for him. He came to the services, and seemed sometimes to feel deeply. One evening, when I had preached on Resisting the Spirit, he was greatly moved, but did not fully yield. The next morning his wife, who is a good woman, came to the parsonage and said to me, "I wish you would go down and see my husband; he is very miserable; he has been awake the greater part of the night, in great distress." I said, "All right; I will write and ask him to come and see me here: that will be better than my going to the shop." I wrote, and he came. We knelt together in the study and prayed till the peace of God came into his broken heart. Saved himself, he began to pray for his brother. The minister of the church wrote me that one morning, about two o'clock, the gentleman referred to heard a loud knocking at his window, and, inquiring who was there, the reply came from his brother, "It is I; I have been seeking the mercy of God, and He has heard my prayer and pardoned all my sins; and I could not wait till morning: I must come at once to tell you. Glory be to God."

This was a sad year for Victoria. For two or three years we had what was called the "Land Boom." On every hand syndicates were formed for buying and selling land. Blocks that used to be sold at per acre were cut up into small allotments and sold at per foot, and for a great price. A block of land that could have been purchased before the boom for from five to seven thousand pounds, was then sold for ten thousand, and in not more than a month afterwards for twenty thousand. Syndicates made a net

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<sup>1</sup> The martyr of Erromanga. – Ed.

profit from one sale of forty or fifty thousand pounds, and then purchased what amounted to hundreds of thousands. The people were wild, mad. Anyone standing quietly by and free from the mania could not fail to see that it must end in disaster. And so it did. The bubble burst, and we are now reaping the bitter fruit of our folly. Banks and building societies closed, and went into liquidation or reconstruction. Syndicates became insolvent, and men reputed to be wealthy became bankrupt. Fraud and wrong-doing in connection with the speculations of the last few years came to light. Some evil-doers were punished, but many escaped. The innocent suffered with the guilty. Aged persons and widows who had laid by a little for a rainy day lost all. Many ministers of religion were drawn into the speculations, and painfully suffered for it. Funds of the Churches were seriously affected, and salaries of ministers considerably reduced. Under the most favourable circumstances it will be years before the Colony can recover. And all has come because of so wildly making haste to be rich, and forgetting the Lord our God.

From August 11<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> I was working in Sydney. I held a Mission in the large Centenary Hall. Every afternoon at three I gave a Bible reading on holiness to about three hundred or more persons, and after every service had members of different Churches anxiously inquiring about the truth. In the evening I preached to the unsaved, and many came forward penitently seeking God, and desiring that prayer should be made for them. I do not care to give numbers; but they told me that about two hundred were in the inquiry-room seeking purity, and one hundred and thirty adults and fifty or sixty young people seeking salvation. All glory to the ever-blessed Lord. The Sunday following I began a week's Mission at Newtown, and the week after I was at Balmain. At both places the Lord made bare His holy arm and saved sinners, and sanctified believers wholly. At Balmain I preached on the Sunday evening in the Town Hall, which was packed, and there was a great break down; fifty or more came out, some in great distress. While I was preaching, a strong sailor rose and said, "I came here tonight to get what you are speaking about, and I will not leave till I get it." He went to his knees and remained praying till the end of the sermon, when some spoke to him and prayed for him, and soon he rejoiced in God his Saviour.

Our Convention at Geelong this year was again glorious. We could not find room for the people. Between three and four hundred attended the morning prayer-meeting at seven o'clock. The requests for prayer were so many that it was difficult to read them all. At the Communion service at seven o'clock in the morning we had quite eight hundred people. At some of our meetings a save of glory seemed to roll over the audience, and from all parts of the building came shouts of "Hallelujah!" "Glory be to God!" In connection with the Bible readings there was great power. Every speaker was directed and assisted by the Holy Spirit in a wonderful way. Names and sects and parties were forgotten: we were all brethren in the Lord.

My last Mission this year was at St. Arnaud. Thank God, I did not labour in vain; but I did not see the results I expected. I think we ought always to look for results; but if we do not see all we desire, we may be humbled before God and cry for more power, but we must never be discouraged.

This year dear old Mrs. Turner, widow of the late well-known Rev. Nathaniel Turner, died, aged 95. She had been with her husband in all his work in New Zealand, Tonga, and Australia.

This year also died the Rev. John Harcourt, Mrs. Turner's son-in-law. He was one of the pioneer workers in South Australia and Victoria. When he became a Supernumerary he went to reside at Kew, and there he worked hard and raised a prosperous church. He preached on the Sunday morning, was at the prayer-meeting on Monday evening, was seized with violent pain on Wednesday, and after a few hours of severe suffering, relief came, and he entered into rest.

At the beginning of the year 1894 I had a Mission at Devonport, Tasmania, and at every service had a large attendance. The power of the Lord was present to save. We had many earnestly seeking His forgiving love and sanctifying grace.

Devonport is divided into two parts by the river Mersey. It is a very beautiful place. There were then not more than about 1100 inhabitants in the town itself, and yet it had two Anglican churches, two Roman Catholic, two Wesleyan, one Baptist, and one Independent. The Plymouth Brethren, the Disciples, and the Salvation Army, had also places of worship there, and the Presbyterians were sending a minister. Oh these divisions! What a hindrance to the true prosperity of Christ's cause! After a few days' rest I commenced a ten days' Mission at Launceston, and the Lord greatly blessed us.

February 8<sup>th</sup> was our golden-wedding day, it being just fifty years since my wife and I were joined together in holy wedlock. We praised the Lord together for all His love and mercy to us. My wife has done me good, and not evil, all our wedded life. Thou frequently a great sufferer, she has so helped and cared for me, and so relieved me, that I have been able to do work for my blessed Master which otherwise I could not have done. We thanked God that so many of our children were saved, and for the blessed hope that He will save them all. We had our children and grandchildren with us all day, and they presented us with an address and a plate with fifty sovereigns on it. The Lord bless them all.

In the evening the Rev. W. H. Fitchett and Mr. Henry Berry kindly invited many friends to meet us at tea in the Kew Church schoolroom. After tea a meeting was held in the church, the President of the Conference presiding. We spent a pleasant evening together, telling of the goodness and faithfulness of our God.

At our Conference this year the Rev. St. T. Withington was elected President. The most important question before us was Methodist Union. We were greatly divided in our views; but after long discussion it was resolved to send on the scheme before us to the General Conference.

Our General Conference was held in Adelaide: the Rev. W. Morley was elected President. We had many important questions before us, but greater interest was felt in that of Methodist Union than in any other. The Rev. W. H. Fitchett proposed a resolution affirming the desirability of Union, and giving permission to each Conference to consummate a Union on a basis submitted to the General Conference and approved. The Rev. James Haslam proposed an amendment against Union at present. After a long discussion the amendment was lost, and the resolution carried, the voting being: for the amendment 34, against 96; for the resolution 101, against 14.

During the debate there was a little feeling, but on the whole the temper of the Conference was good.

During the year I conducted Missions at Armadale, Balaclava, Bairnsdale, Carlton, Kyabram, Kyneton, Waverley, Charlton, and Wesley Church, Melbourne. At some places the results were not great, but at others they were glorious indeed. At Carlton nearly all the young men in the senior class of the Sunday School decided for Jesus. They were from about 18 to 23 years of age, and will, if faithful, be made a power in that church.

Several ministers of our Church died this year. The Rev. J. T. Shaw, who was for a time a missionary in Tonga, was then stationed in New Zealand, and had for the last few years reside in Victoria, but had not been able to do Circuit work. The Rev. J. C. Symons, one of the pioneers in South Australia and Victoria. He laboured hard and successfully at the time of the gold discovery. He had much to do with the legislation in out Conference, and did good work for the Church in many ways. We shall miss him much. The Rev. Spencer Williams, who was the son of a Welsh Methodist minister. He was a brother greatly beloved by us all.

At Kew we have a Ministerial Association, composed of Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist, Independent, and Methodist ministers, who meet once a month for the study of God's word. We have proved how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, and in our fellowship the Lord has greatly blessed us.

The Rev. John M'Neill from London visited the Colonies this year, and conducted many meetings in Melbourne, which were attended by great crowds. His way of presenting the truth was very striking and soul-stirring. Although he did little in the way of bringing people to instant decision, and seldom invited any into the inquiry-room, which he thought was overdone, I am persuaded that many must have received light and blessing.

We were all glad to welcome the Rev. Thomas Cook among us, and greatly rejoiced in the success of his Mission. He preached with great power to large congregations, and under his ministry believers were led into the fulness of blessing, and sinners converted to God. Some thought Mr. Cook did not lay stress enough on Repentance, others thought that more care should have been taken in the admission of persons into the inquiry-room for the purpose of directing penitents, while others complain that so many of those reported to be converted speedily fell away. But, whatever there may be in all this, I think all must have felt that in Mr. Cook we had a man of God, endued with power from on high. I believe that if we want to find the true cause of the backsliding of so many, we must look nearer home. We shall find it, to a great extent at last, in the unpreparedness of the Church to nurse and care for the new converts. In my opinion, the socials and entertainments so common in the Church in these days are eating the life out of our spirituality, are keeping back the showers of blessing, and are taking from us many lately converted who might have been consistent and useful members of the Church. We want a revival of holiness in the Church; then sinners shall be converted, we shall less frequently have to mourn over backsliding, and we shall have an army of workers raised up.

During the year I had frequently to rest, and was sometimes very poorly. But the Lord was with me, and taught me lessons I needed to learn, and prepared me for future work.

In the very hot weather at the beginning of 1895 I was not able to do much. Preaching in the Melbourne churches, and doing what I could to assist my brethren, I often felt "weary in the work, but never weary of it." As the weather got cooler I was able again to undertake my usual work. In different parts of the year I presided at Conventions or had Missions at Albert Park, Brunswick Street, Preston, Kerang, Mildura, Brunswick, and Footscray, on the same lines and with about the same results. One evening, at Footscray, I preached from Isaiah xlv. 3 in connection with Acts ii. 4. A wonderful power was on us. Some fifty or sixty of God's people were in downright earnest seeking to be filled with the Spirit. It was a glorious time of emptying and filling.

At Mildura we had a blessed work. One afternoon while the minister of the Circuit, Rev. A. E. Albeiton, and I were praying in his study for the outpouring of the Spirit at our evening's meeting, the Lord heard and answered our prayer, blessing us both and giving us the assurance that He would show forth His power in the evening. Blessed be His name, He did. We had a large congregation and some interesting cases of conversion. A lame man on crutches had come night after night, but he thought there was no mercy for him. On that Thursday evening he was deeply convicted of sin, put aside his crutches, fell on the floor, and cried to God for mercy. After some time, in great distress, he said to me, "Jesus Christ told His disciples to forgive seventy times seven. Do you think He would tell a man to do what He would not do Himself? No, no; I believe He is willing to forgive. He does forgive. Glory to His holy name!" And he rejoiced with joy unspeakable.

The same evening a retired State school teacher, his wife and her mother, were among the penitents. He was a backslider and had a hard struggle, for he feared he had sinned away the day of grace. I directed his attention to the comforting words of Jesus: "Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out." He laid hold of this, and the blessing came to him, and soon after to his wife and mother-in-law.

In the Mildura school on the Sunday afternoon we had a good work among the young people. When I began to speak, one of the girls in the senior class hurried out, saying to someone when outside, "They are not going to have me converted." She was the first to rise at the evening meeting to signify her decision for Christ. The day following I was visiting a few people, and, while inquiring where one lived, a sweet little girl about ten years old came up and said to me, "Mr. Watsford, are you looking for my mother's house?" I replied, "I do not know who your mother is. I am trying to find where Mrs. Semmens lives." "Oh, I know," she said; "I'll show you." On our way she said, "Oh, I am so glad you came to Mildura. I gave my heart to Jesus on Sunday, and (pointing to a little one who was with her) my sister here did too; and I have been telling this bigger girl who is with us all about it, and she says she'll come next Sunday and give her heart to Jesus." On the following Sunday my little friend was there, and with her was her older companion, who did as she had promised.

Our United Holiness Convention at Wesley Church, Melbourne, this year was a time of special blessing. The weather was stormy, but the people came out well. One

result of the Convention was the establishment of a weekly prayer-meeting in which all the Methodist Churches take part. This meeting has been made a great blessing to many.

Our Annual United Christian Convention was equal to those held before. It has become a great institution, and is doing immense good.

I am sometimes grieved to find how little is known, even by many Methodist people, of Entire Sanctification. One hundred and fifty years ago Mr. Wesley said we were raised up spread Scriptural Holiness through the land. We have it in our catechisms, our hymns, our biographies, our creed; every Methodist minister every year declares that he believes and preaches this doctrine; and yet to many of our people it is a strange thing. After preaching on the subject in one of our largest churches in another Colony, coming from the church I found a few persons together discussing some question. As I passed them a lady slipped aside and said, "Mr. Watsford, you have been bringing strange things to our ears."

Our Conference was held this year at Hobart, Tasmania. The Rev. W. H. Fitchett was elected President. I could not attend. The President was very strongly in favour of Union, and he arranged for public meetings for bringing the matter before our people. The meeting in Melbourne was presided over by the Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, Chief Justice Way, and was very enthusiastic. He and the Adelaide friends pressed me to go to Adelaide to speak at some meetings there. Being much concerned about Union, I went and with the President attended meetings in Adelaide, Rooronga, and Moonta. We found our own people generally in favour of Union. But some were much and conscientiously opposed to it. At the close of our Union work I had a Mission for a week at Norwood, and then returned to Melbourne.

I have had the frequent pleasure of assisting my brethren of other Churches in their great work. I was greatly delighted with the work being done by a medical gentleman in a mission hall, where he preaches every Sabbath day. His anniversary meeting was what all anniversary meetings should be: a time of great power and abundant blessing.

On Christmas Day we had our usual family gathering at my son's house in Balwyn. There were thirty of us present. If the other members of our family who could not attend had been present, we should have numbered forty. We spent a pleasant day together, all, I trust, thankful to God for His great goodness to us.

I had the great pleasure of giving an address to the University students at Queen's College. They were a fine lot of young fellows, principally medical students. They had formed a society for mutual help. Most of them had consecrated themselves to Foreign Mission work, and hoped at the end of the University course, or soon after, to go into the mission field. The Lord bless them!

In December another of our devoted ministers, the Rev. W. P. Wells, ceased to labour and entered into rest. He was a most conscientious and faithful Methodist preacher, a man of sound judgment, and a wise and careful superintendent. He was greatly sustained and blessed in his affliction. It was a means of grace to visit him.

In January 1896 I conducted a Mission at Launceston, Tasmania. The time arranged for it was not the best, but the Lord was with us. My dear friend Rev. G. T. Heyward, with whom I stayed, was exceeding kind to me and my wife. He and I had some blessed times at the Throne of Grace. One evening Mr. Heyward invited all the old folks in the neighbourhood to tea to meet us, and we had a delightful meeting. There were eight present whose united ages amounted five hundred and seventy-three years. Two out of the eight had held their golden wedding. It was very pleasant to talk to the old people. They went home full of gladness.

After closing our work at Patterson Street, Launceston, Mr. Heyward accompanied me to Lillydale, about thirteen miles from Launceston, where I had another Mission with blessed results.

At our Conference in February the great question again was Methodist Union. There was a strong opposition. The debate on the subject was very good. Many spoke well, but the Lord gave Rev. C. Lancaster a message that told powerfully upon everyone. There was great enthusiasm during its delivery. In the end it was unanimously agreed that the question should be submitted to our Church courts and people, and that if the vote were generally in favour of Union, it should be consummated in 1902. We sang "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

This year I conducted special services at Gipps Street, Collingwood, Albert Park, South Melbourne, and Horsham. I visited many Sabbath Schools and saw a good work among the young. I greatly rejoice when the children are saved. I know many of them fall away, but this I think is because there is not sufficient care in nursing them. I urge them in every church to form the young converts into catechism classes, with the most suitable leaders that can be found. If this were done, as it often has been, we should not lose many of them.

I preside at United Christian Conventions at Richmond, Geelong, and Ballarat. Ministers of different Churches gave earnest addresses, and the blessing from the Lord came abundantly upon us all. At our Convention at Ballarat a minister who was not greatly in favour of such services came to our meetings. At a tea-meeting to which all ministers were invited he said, "I was rather prejudiced against these Conventions; but I went to the meetings and heard the testimonies of these brethren, and I am bound to believe them. I am now prepared to join my brethren in this city in a weekly meeting for prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

In June a friend of mine, a good work in the Church, Mr. Howell, was taken very ill. One evening I called at his house. The doctor said there was no hope; the end was very near. When I retired to rest at night I felt in good health. About 4.30 in the morning I awoke feeling very unwell. When I rose a cold perspiration broke out all over me, and I thought the hand of death was on me. I knew that my blessed Saviour was with me, and the thought that passed through my mind was, "How surprised Mr. Howell will be when he gets to heaven to find me there before him." Soon after, in a moment, I fell on the floor perfectly unconscious. When I regained consciousness I found that my wife and daughter and son had lifted me on to the bed. The doctor came and said it was a narrow escape. I had to keep to my bed for a week or more, and then remain very quiet. But in a month I was all right again, and able to go on with my blessed work.



In October our beloved brother, Rev. John M'Neil, who had been holding a Mission in Brisbane, died very suddenly. He was a grand man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, and was greatly used by the Lord in saving souls. He was a member of our band, and was very dear to us all.

During the year the Rev. G. Daniel died. He had been to a missionary meeting at Preston, and was returning home when the call unexpectedly and suddenly came. He was found dead in the railway carriage. Fifty years ago I met him, a young earnest missionary in the Friendly Islands, where he did good work.

My friends and fellow-workers are fast passing away, and I am reminded that at any moment the end may come; I would be found watching and waiting, looking out for the coming of my Lord, and at the same time earnestly engaged in His glorious work.

In the year 1897 I was often laid aside by sickness. Still the blessed Lord gave me work to do, and strength to do it. I conducted Missions at Seymour, Brunswick Street, and North Carlton, and assisted at special services in Wesleyan and other Churches. Our Mission at Seymour was a very blessed one. We had some interesting cases of conversion, and some of the Church members were filled with the Spirit. Some parlour meetings we held were means of grace. At one of these meetings a woman was converted. She went home and induced her husband to come to the meeting at night, and he was converted. The next day she brought a friend of hers to the parlour meeting, and she too was saved. The whole Church was quickened and brought into a good way to work for the Lord Jesus. A week or so after I returned home I received a cheering letter from Mrs. Williams, the minister's wife, telling of a blessed work there on Sunday. She wrote; "A woman who was at the service the previous Sunday, and who, when she went home, said, 'They nearly had me,' was this Sunday converted; and a man who, when you pressed him to yield and be saved, said, 'No, not now,' was greatly moved, and fell on the floor crying for mercy."

In our Mission at Brunswick Street I spoke in the Sabbath School in the afternoon, and there was a great move among the young people. About forty, many of them bright, intelligent lads and maidens, went into the inquiry-room for prayer. At one of our meetings especially the power of the Holy Spirit was on us in a remarkable measure. The seekers came out till the large communion rail, the first form, and the side seats were crowded. It was a glorious victory.

Our Mission at North Carlton was also a most successful one: not so very much in the conversion of sinners as in the uplifting of believers, and their being endued with power for future service. Our Bible readings were made a great blessing. At two such meetings, after studying God's word we went to prayer, and floods of blessing came. It was sometimes just as much as we could bear. We forgot all time, and just gave ourselves up to praising God and rejoicing in Him. Two months after the Mission I received seven letters from working members of the Church, in which they said that during the Mission they had entered into the fulness of blessing in Christ, and that the anointing they then received was abiding with them. Glory be to God for this. I feel more and more that I must spend my last few days in urging Christians to be filled with the Spirit; and I praise God that in doing this I see sinners brought to Christ.

I conducted Conventions, or took part in them, at Box Hill, Williamstown, Mount Erica, Richmond, and Geelong, and at all we saw the grace of God and rejoiced.

At our Conference the question of Methodist Union was again before us. The vote of the Church courts and people had been taken, and there was an overwhelming majority in favour of Union. After this and the compact made at the previous Conference, it was thought there would not be much opposition. But in this we were mistaken. It was contended by some that a vote of about three to one did not show that or people were generally in favour of Union; and by others that the papers placed before the members of our Church were not such as would lead them to vote intelligently. A long discussion followed, and when the vote was taken there were thirteen short of the number required – two-thirds of those present – and so the resolution in favour of Union was not carried. When the numbers were announced, a dead silence fell upon the Conference. All felt that what had been done could not rest there, and many trembled for the consequences. Many of the representatives left the Conference, and those who remained seemed unable to do any business.

When the result was known outside, many angry things were said, and some unwise courses were proposed. Many of us earnestly pleaded with our people to wait patiently, showing them that an unwise step would injure the cause they wished to help, and weakened the hands of those who were seeking to carry it on. After a while things became quieter, and all were willing to wait till the September Quarterly Meetings, when resolutions were passed protesting against the action of Conference, and pleading for the consummation of Union in 1902. At most of the District Synods resolutions were also passed in favour of Union in 1902. All looked forward with confidence to the next Conference.

I read *The Life of Peter Mackenzie*, a wonderful man in his way. As I read, I thought what a pity it was to take a man from the work of saving souls, for which God had so eminently qualified him, and set him apart<sup>2</sup> for raising money for trust debts. In the former part of the book we have accounts of sinners converted, and in the latter part of collections made. The biographer's idea about men getting too old to do soul-saving work cannot be correct. The Holy Spirit can save by the old as well as by the young.

While resting I spent some time at one of our water-places, where I did some little work. At these places ministers complain that professing Christians coming there do things which they would never think of doing at home, and so injure Christ's cause. Many think they can neglect the house of God and wander about seeking pleasure on the Lord's day.

We formed this year a Holiness Association, with some good men of the different Methodist Churches on the Committee, believing that we can do more in this way to spread Scriptural Holiness through the land. The Lord is already blessing us in our work, and He will bless us yet more abundantly if we are earnest. Some have objected to such associations as if it were establishing a kind of caste in the Church.

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<sup>2</sup> Mr. Mackenzie was not set apart by the Conference. He had already become a popular occasional preacher and lecturer when he asked permission to become a supernumerary on his own resources. Otherwise, Mr. Watsford is quite right. – Ed.

But is thoroughly Wesleyan, we think. Mr. Wesley not only had Classes and Bands, but he had the Select Bands which he often met, and to which he looked for help in his great mission. Everyone must admit that the doctrine of Entire Sanctification is not now preached as Wesley directed: constantly, explicitly, earnestly, to be obtained by faith, and therefore to be obtained now. A revival of earnest teaching of this great doctrine would be the uplifting of our Church, and would bring a marked prosperity in every department of our work.

Again in the year 1898 I was often afflicted. The ever-gnawing rheumatism had hold of me. I have walked a good many miles in my day, and it took a good deal to tire me, for the Lord gave me strength. In Fiji I have walked thirty miles in a day without much weariness. But my walking days seemed to be over. I manage easily to get about when I am carried, but walking a short distance tires me now. But I thank God that at those times when I cannot travel far I can do work near at hand. I delight to help my brethren, and I have the great pleasure of taking part frequently in services held by other denominations.

During the year I was reminded that the end is nearing. The four oldest ministers in our Church at the commencement of the year were Rev. R. C. Flockart, W. A. Quick, Dr. Waugh, and myself. Mr. Flockart died in January. He was a bright, cheerful brother. He seemed never to look at the dark side of things for long. Naturally he was of a merry heart, but grace made him what he was. He suffered much at last, but in his pain he was always praising God. His nurse said, "After a night of agony he was still praising God."

Dr. Waugh died in November. For some years he did good work in our best Circuits. He then became President of Wesley College, where he served our Church faithfully and well for many years. A good number of our ministers were under his care at Wesley College, and they thanked God that they were so highly favoured. He was greatly respected by our own ministers and laymen and by the members of other Churches.

My dear old friend the Rev. W. A. Quick and I are the only two of the four left, "and we are to the margin come, and we expect to die;" but the Lord may keep us here a few days longer to work for Him. We can leave all that to Him, and say, "Thy will be done, whether it be for health or sickness, toil or rest, life or death."

I conducted Missions and evangelistic services at Port Melbourne, Surrey Hills, North Richmond, Cremorne Street, and other places. At North Richmond and Cremorne Street we had a blessed work. Our minister there, the Rev. James Gault, was downright earnest, and God used him very much.

I presided at or took part in Conventions at Wesley Church, Melbourne, Albert Park, Brighton, and Richmond. At the Convention at Wesley Church we received great blessing at our Interval Meetings, where many were witnesses for Jesus. At our closing meeting the large church was filled with young men and young women, and when I asked those who had decided for God to stand up, it was delightful to see what hundreds of them rose.

The members of our United Band had a quiet time together for four days in Geelong. We read God's word, and called upon Him for more abundant blessing for ourselves and for the whole Church. By thus waiting on God we renewed our strength.

Victoria and all Australia suffered a great loss this year by the removal of the Rev. H. B. Macartney, who went from us to join the staff at the Bible Society's house in London. Mr. Mcartney was a power in the land. We shall all miss him; Victoria can ill afford to lose such men.

At our Conference the great question of Methodist Union was again before us. The Federal Council, which all along has done its work admirably, presented its report; resolutions from District Synods and Quarterly Meetings were read; and a discussion, not very long, followed. A resolution approving of Union in 1902 was moved, and an amendment for further delay till 1905. The amendment was lost, 57 voting for, 178 against. Those who were opposed then went in a body beyond the bar of the Conference, and the resolution was put and carried without a dissentient voice. The brethren who had retired then returned, and we were all delighted with the spirit manifested by them. The minister who had taken the leading part of the opposition said, "Now we no longer know Unionist or Non-Unionist: we must all be one." Thank God that the question is so far settled.

A few days after the resolution in favour of Union was carried we had a meeting of all the Methodist Conferences. Chief Justice Way, of South Australia, who has taken so deep an interest in the question and has done much to promote Union, was present, and gave an excellent address. At this meeting it was resolved to consummate the Union in January 1902, and hold the first Conference in March of the same year. The meeting was marked by a loving and brotherly spirit.

As I have done for some years past, I spent Good Friday with our Baptist friends at an all-day meeting in their church in Fitzroy. It was a solemn and a glorious time.

I conducted a memorial service in Brunswick Street Church for Mr. Joseph Lowe, who, with his four brothers, came to Australia more than fifty years ago. They were all members and earnest workers in our Church. One of the brothers and two of the sons entered our ministry, and many others of the children are among our most valued members and workers. The father and mother followed the sons some years after. As a family they were a precious gift to us from England. Joseph was the last of the five. When he was dying he said, "Dear mother will soon now have us all around her in heaven."

My dear wife was very afflicted this year and suffered greatly. I had arranged to attend a Convention in Sydney in October, and, in connection with the Rev. D. O'Donnell, hold a Mission there immediately after the Convention. But my wife's illness seemed as if it would prevent me from carrying out my engagement. All through August and September she was very low. Once or twice our children were summoned, and stood around her bed thinking the end had come. But toward the end of September the Lord heard our prayer, and her health so greatly improved that the doctor said I might safely go to Sydney.

The Convention Sydney, presided over by Rev. D. O'Donnell, was a very remarkable one. Ministers of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist, and Methodist Churches, and a staff officer of the Salvation Army, took part. The attendance was good, and many received light and blessing. One evening we invited the ministers of the city to tea, and after tea held a meeting, at which much was said of our need of the baptism of the Spirit. Before we closed, another meeting was arranged for. At that it was agreed to hold a United Prayer Meeting every Friday morning. I had the very great pleasure of conducting the first on the following Friday. The Lord was in our midst and blessed us.

The Convention over, Brother O'Donnell and I commenced a ten days' Mission in our large Centenary Hall. At the service on Sunday evenings the Hall was packed, but the attendance at other services was not as large as we desired and expected. Still we had a good gathering, and the power of the Spirit was wonderfully with the word. The great number of those present each night were men, and many of them young men. There were many anxious inquirers, some of them most interesting cases.

One evening I preached on Instant Salvation, first addressing the unsaved and urging them to yield at once. I then spoke to believers, and pleaded with them for full surrender and receiving Christ as their Sanctification now. I then called upon all who were willing to do so to stand up. While a mighty power rested on us about seventy rose. I said to Brother O'Donnell, "You carry on here and help those who are seeking mercy; I will go into the large committee room and meet those who desire to be filled with the Spirit." As I went I invited those who had stood up to follow me, and they came in such numbers that many had to stand all the time, for there was no room for kneeling. And oh, what a time we had! I could only say, "The day of Pentecost has fully come." All were earnestly seeking the fulness of the Spirit, and they did not seek in vain. All the members of the Central Mission received the baptism. One brother who had been fond of a little jewellery was praying for some time, and, the answer not coming, he took off some trinkets he had and placed them on the table, and soon after was rejoicing in God. After some time we rose and together returned into the Hall, joining the party there, and loud and long our praises went up to God for this Pentecostal baptism. Writing of it some time after, our dear brother Rev. W. G. Taylor, the successful minister of the Central Mission, said, "That Tuesday night will never be forgotten." My beloved brother O'Donnell had to leave for New Zealand, where he had arranged to conduct Missions in three or four places, but I felt I could, with the Lord's help, labour on a little longer, and so I offered to go on with Brother Taylor for another week; and we did so, and every day had blessed results.

The last Sunday I preached in the morning in the Centenary Hall, and at night I conducted the service at Bourke Street, Surrey Hills, where we had a great breaking down.

One Sunday during my visit to Sydney I preached at the church of my dear friend Rev. Rainsford Bavin, and rejoiced over sinners repenting. At the prayer-meeting in the morning a young lady came to me and said, "You knew my great-grandfather, sir." "Did I," I replied; "who was he, pray?" "The Rev. W. Walker," she said. "Oh," I said, "I did indeed know him; he was a dear friend of mine, to whom I owed very much for his wonderful teaching of God's truth." When I was in the pulpit at the morning service a letter was brought to me containing a request from a Mr. Johnstone

to baptize his child, “the great-grandson of the Rev. W. Cross, of Fiji.” I cannot tell how pleased I was to baptize that boy, although the dear little fellow cried out lustily all the service.

I greatly admired the spirit and work of the Rev. W. G. Taylor at the Central Mission, and I had the pleasure of staying a week in his happy home.

While conducting the Mission, my daughter, the wife of the Rev. B. Danks, carefully looked after me and helped me in many ways.

I thank God for all His goodness to me during the Mission in Sydney. The work is wholly His, and I give all the glory to Him alone.