

STRAY LEAVES FROM ASSAM

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MRS. P. H. MOORE

The American Baptist Missionaries were the single largest group and the earliest to live and preach in North-Eastern India as a whole. There are several accounts of their early activities and the hard work they input in various spheres, most notably in education and health services. In fact to them can be credited major developments in the Assamese language as well as some tribal languages. In their endeavour to make available the pre-Independence books (most of which have been long out of print) the present publishers would like to hear from readers about any other titles considered worth reprinting.

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STRAY LEAVES FROM ASSAM



A continuation of my Journal "*Twenty Years
in Assam,*" "*Further Leaves from Assam,*"
and "*Autumn Leaves from Assam.*"

EDITED AND PUBLISHED

BY

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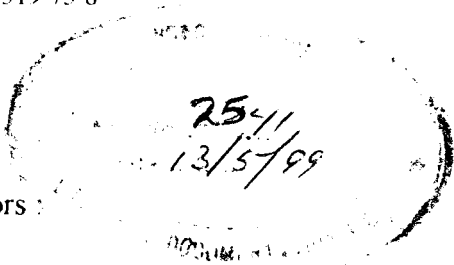
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STRAY LEAVES FROM ASSAM

I

Dr. Barbour's Visit to Assam

January 1, 1911.—This has been a good Sunday here. Early in the morning there were three baptisms, then the noon preaching, followed by the Communion Service. At 2 p. m. Sunday School, and later Prayer Meeting.

January 8.—We received a good letter from Dr. and Mrs. S. W. Rivenburg. They were married in Nowgong on December 28, 1910. Mrs. Rivenburg was Miss Helen B. Protzman. Brother Penn E. Moore and his Evalyn are at Tika now. They were married October 26, 1910, in New London, New Hampshire. Evalyn was Miss E. S. Carter.

Our new workers. Dr. and Mrs. J. Riley Bailey are at Impur. Rev. and Mrs. George R. Kampfer, and Miss E. Marie Holmes are in Gauhati.

Our conference with Dr. T. S. Barbour will be in Gauhati, March 4th to 12th. Just after conference Dr. E. W. Clark will start for America.

January 16.—Just 31 years ago today we first reached Nowgong. Years full of our Father's help and blessing. Oh that we may serve Him better. Mr. Moore is very busy rebuilding our girl's dormitory. It will be large enough for 80 girls. Miss Anna E. Long returned December 9, 1910, and is happy to be again with Humitre and the girls.

January 17.—We do so enjoy the large photo of Robert Moore Harris, our little grandson. Roland and Clara sent us the photo for Christmas.

February 5.—My husband has gone to attend the "Annual Association" of the Christians of our Nowgong District. He wrote—"We had good meetings, and the Lord was with us."

In writing to our daughter Clara Mr. Moore said—"I feel for myself that my own life becomes more and more circumscribed within the limits of my own work, and the interests with which I have to deal in our Assam Mission. This is not as I would choose; but it may be necessary to enable me to fulfill the little task God has assigned me here. The most unsatisfactory part of it is one sees so much that needs

doing that one can't even attempt to do, and so many wide doors of opportunity that one can't enter. The satisfaction of it lies in the consciousness that I am in the place that God assigned me; and in the real presence of the Lord Jesus in all the varied duties of life here. More and more I learn to see the blessedness of life is internal rather than in externals. More and more I feel that to understand, and yield oneself to the ideas and ideals of Jesus, is to make one's life a success, which shall be attested by abiding in Christ's love, and by a growing transformation to His perfect character."

February 25.—This is our good Dr. E. W. Clark's 81st birthday. He is now in Gauhati, and just after Conference he and Rev. O. L. Swanson will start for America. Dr. T. S. Barbour and Dr. A. W. Anthony will probably sail for America in April.

February 27.—We are to leave this evening for Conference in Gauhati. Mrs. J. M. Carvell has written a good hymn to be sung at Conference.

ASSAM CONFERENCE HYMN

Tune—Jesus the very thought of Thee

From hill and plain we gather here,
 Thy guidance Lord to seek,
 May self be hid and Christ extolled,
 In this, our Conference week.

While in Thy Kingdom's cause, dear Lord,
 We meet to plan and pray,
 Grant us Thy wisdom from above,
 Reveal Thy will and way.

We have no might apart from Thee,
 No wisdom, skill, or power.
 Thus now in one accord we pray,
 God bless this Conference hour.

And as we separate again,
 Our work for Thee to do,
 Go with us, Lord, and help us spread
 Thy tidings glad and true.

Then in the Spirit's might and power,
 With Him the Great I am,
 We'll gather for the Harvest Home,
 Our sheaves from dark Assam.

—ALICE P. CARVELL,
 Conference, 1911.

Conference, March 4th to 12th, 1911. "The Diamond Jubilee Conference of the American Baptist Assam Mission." The Eleventh Session of our Conference. We had a good Conference, but did not follow our program, as much time was given to Dr. Barbour. He had a long list of subjects to present, and several

missionaries had requests to make. The "Reference Committee" often worked until midnight. There were 27 of our Assam missionaries present, and 11 missionaries absent who are now in Assam. Our visitors were Dr. T. S. Barbour, Foreign Secretary of the "American Baptist Foreign Mission Society," and Dr. A. W. Anthony, member of the "Board" and representative of the Free Baptists.

Fraternal delegates were, from Burma, Rev. G. J. Geis and Rev. A. E. Seagrave, and from South India, Prof. L. E. Martin and Dr. and Mrs. D. Downie. Each Session of Conference was begun with a Devotional Service, and often 15 minutes for prayer in the sessions.

At the "Social" on Thursday evening Mrs. M. C. Mason read an excellent historical paper entitled, "These Seventy-five Years." This paper will be printed with the "Minutes" of Conference.

Sundays were the best days of Conference, when we listened to good sermons in English and in Assamese. On the second Sunday at 1 P. M. was the Ordination Service for Dr. H. W. Kirby. It was a solemn and beautiful service. At 4 P. M. Dr. T. S. Barbour preached from 1st Cor. 15: 11.

Our Conference closed with a Prayer Meeting led by Rev. John Firth. We return to our work stronger in faith to ask great things of God.

After Conference Mr. Moore accompanied Dr. Anthony to Kohima, Golaghat, Jorhat and Sibsagar.

Dr. Barbour went to Impur, and to Sadiya and Jorhat.

We are glad our secretaries could see so many stations and do such strenuous work.

March 30.—Mr. Moore has returned and seems well. He said Dr. Anthony called Gauhati and Sibsagar the beauty spots of Assam.

There are now 987 girls reading in Christian schools in Assam. Of this number 520 are Garos. There were 1,000 baptisms last year in connection with our Assam mission.

April 16.—Easter Sunday. Our text today was—"That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection."

May 23.—We have just learned of the death of Mrs. W. E. Witter, which occurred April 6, 1911, in Cambridge, Mass. Dear little woman! At last she is free from pain. During her last months the children, Volney and

Marjorie, left their studies and cared for and nursed their mother most tenderly. We have written Dr. Witter of our love and sympathy. Dr. and Mrs. Witter came to Assam in 1883 and would have continued in the work in Assam if health had permitted. They reduced the Lhota Naga language to writing.

June 7.—Yesterday at 2 P. M. Miss Long had the "Closing Exercises" of our Girls' School. This year only women and girls were invited. The women (Hindus and Mohammedans) came in curtained bullock carts and observed purdah rules. Our Christian women and girls turned out well. There are now 100 children in school, including our 30 boarders. The program consisted of essays, recitations and songs.

June 8.—My husband and Dr. M. C. Mason of Tura have gone to Shillong for one week. They were invited to attend "The Committee on Female Education for Eastern Bengal and Assam." Their expenses are paid by government. From Gauhati they went up to Shillong by motor, and thus did the 60 miles up-hill in a few hours. Shillong is a pretty hill station of 5,000 feet elevation. The committee meetings will be June 9 to 13.

June 11.—Pitt finds Shillong much changed and improved since our visit there in 1887, when Clara was only 6 years old. In 1888 we took Clara to Darjeeling, Calcutta, and Benares, and the next year to America. Shillong is the government headquarters in Assam, and very pretty, with its hills, clear running water and gravelled roads. Also beautiful trees, flowers and birds.

June 17.—Henry Goldsmith's eldest son, Comfort, made a short visit to Nowgong to bring his sister Ethel to school. Comfort has just passed his "entrance examination," and will soon enter Serampore College. Pitt has just returned from Shillong, and Miss E. Marie Holmes has come from Gauhati to stay a few weeks with us and study Assamese.

June 22.—This is the Coronation Day for King George V and Queen Mary, a great day in London. December 12 has been appointed for the Delhi Durbar, when the King and Queen are expected to be in India.

July 4.—We put up our flags today, and then did as usual. Mr. Carvell is spending ten days with us, and will help put down the brick-cement floor in our girls' dormitory.

July 8.—This morning Pitt reminded me of what took place 32 years ago in the old home church. Happy years they have been in our Father's love and care.

Miss Long has just heard that Miss Florence H. Doe, a Wellesley graduate, will come to Nowgong. She will sail in the missionary party, September 16, from Boston.

July 29.—This is our day in the "Missionary Prayer Calendar." I always feel conscious on such days that friends and relatives are praying for us.

August 4.—The good news has come from Gauhati that Rev. and Mrs. G. R. Kampfer have a little daughter, Margaret Alethea, born August 2, 1911.

September 22.—Pitt has gone to Jorhat for ten days, to help teach the Annual Bible Classes of Preachers and Helpers. Word has come that Dr. and Mrs. Bailey of Impur have an eight-pound baby boy, James McClure, born on the 17th of September, 1911.

October 21.—Bro. Penn E. Moore and wife are spending a few days with us.

November 11.—My 54th birthday. A letter

came from Pitt, who is in Gauhati to attend a meeting of the “Assam Reference Committee.” Pitt’s letter said—“Many very happy returns of the day. Would like to be with you to enjoy it. Hope all will be peaceful and prosperous.” There will be a good many missionaries in Gauhati this week. Our new workers are Rev. and Mrs. Url M. Fox, and Miss Florence H. Doe. The returning workers are Rev. and Mrs. L. W. L. Jackman, and Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Bowers. Rev. A. E. Stephen has already arrived.

November 19.—Miss Doe has come to Nowgong, and all are delighted. She will have charge of our Girls’ School. The girls will give her a “Reception.”

December 1.—Mr. and Mrs. Fox have just visited us. It is delightful to see some one just out from home.

December 4.—Pitt is 58 years old today. For dinner we invited Misses Doe, Holmes and Long. After dinner Miss Doe sang “Moment by Moment,” and the school girls came and sang “Happy Birthday to You.” Pitt seemed very happy all day, and in the evening he played “Lawn Tennis.”

December 12.—King George V was declared Emperor of India today at noon at Delhi, and there is celebrating throughout India.

December 20.—We find there have been 70 baptisms in our Nowgong District this year, of whom 40 are Mikirs.

December 25.—Miss Bond and Miss Holbrook are spending Christmas in Nowgong, and we have all had a very pleasant day. We took dinner at Miss Long's bungalow, where there are five young ladies, including Miss Holmes. The Christians had the usual Christmas feast and sports. The ladies had a tree for the school children. Penn and Evalyn wrote they had a little excitement in a tiger hunt.