Surely no greater trial of faith could have beenfallen any one than the one under which our Mr. Coote was placed. When the stroke of the Lord we can say nothing. "I was dumb with silence; I opened not my mouth because Thou didn't."—Ps. xxxiv. 9.

This dealing of God's providence is incurable, but we know that He does all things well, and we bow in submission to His will. He has told us that He will purgat it that it may bring forth more fruit; and in the assurance that fruit was being brought forth, our trust is that the Husbandman designs to use the implements of a still greater trial.

For our brother who has been taken we can only give thanks. He has entered into his rest; the brilliant reward of those who turn many to righteousness is before him.

For his sister our hearts go up to God in earnest prayer. We pleaded ourselves to remember them both at the Throne of Grace at our Sabbath morning meetings, and this, I think, has been faithfully done. Now we have but one prayer to offer, and one in such sadness and loneliness and grief. The great mantle of the Lord was cast over her.

"Here am I, send me." What a thrill of sorrow must run through the Young Men's Fellowship Union. Yet why should we grieve? The Master had need of him elsewhere, and He knows best.

The accompanying sketches and tributes of the life and work of our late missionary are from the pens of our President, Mr. R. Gillespie, and Rev. J. G. Davies, Rinningong.

**Death of the Rev. J. H. Davies.**

The time is only measured by months since our friend was ordained with a special view to his carrying the Gospel to Korea. It is little more than a year since he bade him farewell. The suggestion that the Young Men's Fellowship Union should be responsible for his maintenance was taken up with enthusiasm, and those who were present at their farewell meeting with him and his sister still retain the memory of the unbounded esteem and high hope and warm affection which filled all hearts.

Their voyage was prosperous; their reception by the Christians already there far surpassed their expectations; it seemed as if instead of loneliness and privation they met only with kindness and welcome.

Their progress in the study of the language had been so rapid that it was expected they would soon be able to address the Koreans in their own tongue. Everything seemed prosperous and encouraging beyond our hopes.

The members of the Union showed their hearty interest in the work and their sympathy with the Missionary by providing his salary long before the year was over, and by contemplating how they could further increase the strength of the Mission.

And now we suddenly learn that he is called away. The devoted life, so full of promise, so abundant in self-sacrificing labours, is ended: his sun has gone down while it is yet noon.

The work begun with such good hope is cut short, and in a manner which seems to leave it that of any other we have known, perhaps, was fitted to stimulate the lives of our young men to noble aspirations, has been withdrawn.

In Memoriam: Rev. J. H. Davies, M.A.

It is with a heavy heart that I take up my pen to give the readers of the *Messenger* a short account of my dear brother's life. The sad news that he had passed away came by telegram from Korea on 10th April.

My earliest recollections of him are connected with his profession of faith in Christ at the age of eleven. How long he had known Christ he could not say, but I know that from that time onwards he was a sincere believer in, and a faithful follower of, Jesus Christ. I remember well, how, about this time, he began to help me into a clearer knowledge of the way of salvation. In the year 1869, my brother being then thirteen years of age, he was taken from the school and placed in the care of his sister, as the eldest son at home, devoted to a large extent the management of our affairs.

He entered the office of Messrs. Jennings and Coote, solicitors, intending to follow his father's profession, and in due course, after passing the matriculation examination by studying before and after office hours, he became an articled clerk. At this time we sat under the ministry of the Rev. H. B. Macartney, jun., of Caulfield, to whose influence was largely due my brother's zeal for the Foreign Mission cause. He became strongly impressed with the need of the heathen world, and considering the command of Christ to go and make disciples of all nations, the desire to work for Christ in the Foreign Mission field entered his heart never afterwards to leave it. He gave up his law studies, and without a thought of regret turned his back upon the bright prospects that the position he had already won and the kindness of his employers assured to him. He determined to take a degree in arts at the University, and in order to do this he became a resident master in the Toorak College. He had passed his first year in arts when a pressing call came to him to go to India, to assist the Rev. F. N. Alexander, R.F.I., whose sister was already labouring. Believing it to be a call from God, and ever ready to obey the Divine voice, he went forth, and applying himself with great diligence to the study of the Telugu language was soon able to get on so well that he did not suffer from successive attacks of fever, and after being only eighteen months in the country was ordered home by the doctors. He came back very weak, but in a few months he was able to resume his interrupted university course.

Considering the amount of other work he had always on hand, and the fact that his health was not at its best he declined the offer of getting a Classical Exhibition in his second year, and the Natural Science Scholarship and a Second-class in Chemistry in his third year. After completing his university course he turned his thoughts again to the mission-field, but he was not allowed to go to India, and home duties seemed also to require his presence in the colony. A variety of considerations, which I need not detail, led to his starting the Caulfield Grammar-school, in which, as is well known, he achieved a signal success. But he was not satisfied. There were many he thought would be glad to take the school off his hands and work it as efficiently as he did; but who would go to the heathen? One by one the obstacles to his going were removed, and at last with a joyful heart he offered himself to the Presbyterian Church as its first missionary to Korea. And then, while he was enjoying his temperate climate he might give more years of service to the cause he loved so well than in lands of heat, and hence his heart was very, very glad.

He had an ardent desire to preach the Gospel where Christ was not named. He was ready to go where others would not go, and to face hardships if necessary, accounting not his life dear to himself if only he might be used in spreading the Saviour's kingdom.

When leaving for Edinburgh to study theology, when every step was taken by the Presbyterian Church, he told his boys at the school that now for the first time since he had been twelve years of age he would have all his time to give to his studies. How well he made use of his time there is known to our Examination Board and the ministers of the Melbourne Presbytery, who examined him on his return. He had long practised rigid economy in his use of time and close application to the work in hand. He was an earnest student, delighting in knowledge for its own sake. He had been ordered home as it would give him the real work of his life.

Further news will come shortly of his brief work in India. His death has been a great loss to the Mission in the study of the Korean language, the beginnings of his mission work, and a careful study of the Hebrew Old Testament with a view to helping in translation work. He seemed more full of energy and life than ever, and was indulging in large hopes of future usefulness. In his last letter to me he is hesitating whether to leave Seoul or not. There are several missionaries in Seoul, and almost none in the rest of the country, and he concludes not to leave just then but to try interning in a quiet way, mentioning that he has a passport for three provinces.

But God has called him away. He was only thirty-three years of age. The telegram announcing that he had been carried off by smallpox was signed by his sister, for whom, in a loss that many will feel, the deepest sympathy must be felt.

I have given these outlines of the facts of a life of one who will be remembered by many as one of the purest, kindest, most generous and self-sacrificing men that God has given to the world. What he was to me and the rest of his brothers and sisters I shall not attempt to describe. One knows, and we would all say, that he knew that his will is done, and that whether we wake or sleep we are in His gracious keeping.

John G. Davies.
Letter from the late Rev. J. Henry Davies.

Seoul, Korea, Jan. 31, 1890.

My Dear Friends,

We have been having quite a little excitement here. The Korean merchants are in a stir, the Japanese, and especially the Chinese merchants, have been getting a large part of the trade in the town into their own hands. Now, according to the treaty which was forced upon the Koreans by their powerful neighbours, and especially by Japan, no foreigners have any right to live in Seoul except the representatives of the foreign powers. But the king rather wished that foreigners to come in, and made no objection. Now, however, the merchants, who form a guild, and are directed by six leaders, the heads of it, have posted up notices that all their shops are to be closed until the Chinese and Japanese traders leave the town and go to one of the three treaty ports. As we have no more right to be here than the merchants, I have asked several Koreans if they wanted to turn us out too, but they all say "No, only the merchants.

The Chinese have erected a watch-tower and enrolled their men in what they say is a fire brigade. They have established a police force too, armed with Winchester rifles, and finally, they have adopted the law of retaliation, that is, an agreement that any act of civil war, if the Koreans allied themselves with Japan, and adopted a radically progressive policy and repudiated China's claim of suzerainty.

A little while ago there were all kinds of rumours afloat. For instance, that Prince Pak, the Korean envoy to America, had there insulted the Chinese Ambassador, so that on his return here the Chinese Resident had demanded that his head should be cut off as a satisfaction for the honour of China. Instead of doing this, the King had given him very high honours, whereas the Chinese Resident had got very angry, and threatened trouble. They say that Prince Pak has taken himself off, and that there will be war, and a great deal of civil commotion. The present Government is very shaky. The King is regarded as a very well-meaning man, but they say that it is impossible for him to hear the truth about anything, and that he has no proper secretaries. The present Government is very weak. But I am going to tell you of a bright spot. There are many.

One of our Christians brought a Korean gentleman to see us, but it was not a very promising interview with the relative of a king, a great man, and holding high rank. He had visited our Evangelists, and read many Christian books, and said that if he was offered to his Korean friends they wouldn't care for it. He looked at it critically, and I couldn't be sure whether it was the foreign way or not. I knew exactly what it was that he objected to. Then he produced a large sheet, by a Methodist brother here, Mr. S. Manyik, with a very long address. He unrolled the sheet, surveyed it with a critical air, and said that it wasn't got up in a-tall manner. Then he opened a large book, and a printed book, on Korean paper, and handed it to me. I began reading it aloud, and found that it was opened by quoting from the first chapter of St. Mark. He said that it ought to begin with "Men of a good disposition, read this." He asked me if I could kind of get some copies printed for a free distribution. I said just that, as he had friends living round him to whom he wished to give copies. I felt my heart burn within me, as sitting surrounded by those Koreans, this 90 High man, as they call men of rank, was discussing the most taking form in which to print a tract for him to distribute among his friends. As reading his book with my teacher, I wished to go forward with the paper, for the reason that if a Korean had sin-triscribed, I took it to Mr. Ohlinger, who was greatly pleased, and willing to act on any suggestion, but Mrs. Ohlinger smiled at the idea. So we have not had any. Say when "Men of good disposition, read this." How I did feel when surrounded by those men that I was holding something, wonder whether they speak in their own tongue of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. My teacher says that this man "preaches much." I said "it would be very fair for a man in his position to enter our Church and he replied, "Very."

Pray for us and for our work here. We want wisdom for the day, guidance for the future, always "power for service."

Yours truly,

Your fellow-worker in the Master's service

J. Henry Davies.

Reports of Societies.

VICTORIA.

AVOCA.—Mr. J. Brown, of the Port Society, visited this district, embraced Wrexham, and Bung Bung, and was welcomed.

CREWESBURY.—Messrs. A. E. Culliford, Fullarton were the delegates to the Society, and a successful meeting was held, on request of the minister, Rev. C. Rohrwick, the delegates addressed the congregation the close of the evening service, and stood that a meeting would be held to form a Fellowship Association.

CLUNY.—This week the 1st anniversary of the meeting was small owing to the break up the weather. The Rev. E. Gray was in the chair, and heartily commended the movement to the young people of his congregation. It was agreed to hold a meeting on the 20th inst. to consider the question of an Association.

BAINEVY.—This Association intends joining the Union. The movement is to be extended to Gippoland, and Mr. W. H. Gregson is to preside. The Association are also to assist the Rev. D. A. Cameron, M.A., with the project.

The Secretary of the Union, Mr. T. Steele, was present on Easter Sunday morning, and in the evening addressed a special meeting of the members and other young men of the Church, about forty being present.

HAMILTON.—This Association met on Easter Sunday, forty being present. Mr. W. Wharton, who was present, took part, and the members resolved to extend the movement to the north.

FITZROY.—This Association, we are pleased to learn, hope to make a fresh start after the inunction of their new pastor, Rev. W. Mackie.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY.—The New South Wales Union, instead of having a missionary of their own, have resolved to undertake the support of a number of native teachers in the New Hebrides.

CHURCH HILL, SYDNEY.—A member of the Camberwell Society visited this Association recently, and was much pleased with the meeting. He says, "It is a real live Association. I listened to a glorious address from the pastor, Rev. W. Dill Maclay. It was so very thorough, so evangelical, so practical, so full of real fire, that we all seemed lifted up beyond measure.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE.—The deputies from the Victorian Union, Mears, McGillivray and D. C. Armstrong, were welcomed by the Assembly of Adelaide at a meeting on the 5th inst. On the 6th, a well-attended meeting was held under the auspices of the three Adelaide Congregations, presided over by Mr. T. W. Fleming, when Mr. McGillivray spoke of the advantages of the Union, and recommended the formation of one in South Australia. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Paton, the deputies were cordially thanked; and on the motion of the