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THE MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

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at first, but finally tried to evade the question by saying that we were no longer under the law, and thus they had also chosen Sunday. But when I asked him how they could then keep Sabbath according to the law, he simply smiled, seeing he had gotten himself into an inextricable difficulty.

Abyssinia is about as large as the States of California and Louisiana, and contains something like four and a half millions of people, the majority of whom are nominal Christian Sabbatharians. Up to the present time we do not have a

single tract in their language, and there is no one laboring for them. As many of them go to Khartum and the Sudan, we could easily reach them there. Here is surely a wonderful field for us. The Abyssinians are very poor, and I found this especially true of their colony at Jerusalem, where they occupy a part of the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Here is another open door which ought to be entered soon. May the Lord provide laborers and means that this work may not be delayed longer.

Hamburg, Germany.

SOME PHASES OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE VISITING.

BY W. S. SADLER.

It is sometimes a problem with the visitor to know how to find an entrance to the houses in his district. There are several classes of persons whom he desires to meet, and who may be helped in some way. There is the class with whom he stands on a social level; there are people of wealth and fashion upon whom he may not, if he would, intrude himself; and there are still other people whom he is accustomed to account as belonging to the "depressed classes."

The first class is not the difficult one. Even those who have so much of this world's goods that they are conscious of no need, are not inaccessible to the visitor who feels that he has a message of blessing for them. Such homes are sometimes entered through work for the children in Sabbath-schools, for instance. The main thing is to desire to get in, to feel impelled by the constraining love of Christ. A sense of duty will not suffice. The heart must be warm with the love of Christ and the passion for souls. An idle chit-chat with people will not answer. Keep your eyes keenly open for opportunities. If you begin conversation

on the weather, get on to practical topics as soon as you can.

The most difficult class to meet is the third one mentioned. They are more than likely to repel you if they think you are trying to do missionary work for them. They can conceive of no good reason for your visit. Many have bought furniture on the instalment plan, and failing to pay for it, expect the dealers to take forcible possession of it. Others are skulking thieves and murderers. You must have an excuse for your call. If you go under the banner of religion, it may keep them from doing you harm, but you will not get near to them.

I once found myself in one of these terrible localities, where thieves and pick-pockets and gamblers congregate. I knocked at a door, and called out, "Who lives here?"

The response from one of the roughs inside told me that I had better go on if I cared about my life.

"It is not my life I am thinking of," I answered; "it is these folks round the corner."

The man then appeared at the door.

"What's the matter? Somebody had a fight? Somebody killed?"

I told him that three of the children of the family round the corner had never had any clothes, and that their mother was working as hard as she could at the wash-tub to support them, but that she could not get enough to feed and clothe them all, for there was a dozen of them. I asked him to come around with me and see for himself.

The man had opened the door by this time, and stood apparently in study for a moment. Then he called to a companion inside, "Jim, I'm going round to see about this thing."

We went around the corner, where we found the poor woman at the wash-tub, with her naked, starved family around her, and, hardened villain that he was, the tears rolled down the man's cheeks as he listened to her story. His heart was touched, too, for he took a dollar from

his pocket, and gave it to her as he left.

I have been there since, and I had no trouble in getting in. The cards and bottles are put aside when I go, and seven of those men are contributing a dollar a week to help the poor about them. The money is not always honestly raised, but we have to take the people as we find them.

Often I go to them with a new case, and get them to look it up for themselves. "You can tell better than I, perhaps, what to think of it," I tell them. Coming home one night from such a visit, a man at my side remarked enthusiastically that this kind of work made him feel like home, when he was a boy back in New Hampshire, and his mother used to have him carry baskets of food to poor folks. So a cord is touched connecting with the long ago of their innocent youth, and awakening memories of home and mother.

CANVASSING IN INDIA.

BY ELLERY ROBINSON.

I HAVE enjoyed my work in India very much, especially the last few months. I have been conscious that the Spirit of the Lord was working upon the minds of the people, influencing them to subscribe for the paper or books, in a manner that I have not witnessed before; and I have been glad indeed that I could co-operate with Him.

I have long wished that the *Oriental Watchman* could be introduced into all parts of India and Burma, and now I am glad to say that my desires are in a fair way to be rapidly fulfilled. Several of our workers, with some of the brethren and sisters in the church, have canvassed a large part of the field.

Mrs. Robinson and myself have just finished quite an extended tour in the

central provinces and frontier districts in the northwest of India; and then after spending a few weeks in finishing up other points where work has been commenced, all the towns, or nearly all, and cities as well, where English readers can be found, will be reached by the paper, besides having a good sprinkling of our books also.

I believe that "The Desire of Ages" would find a ready sale in India, and shall be glad when that good book can be placed in the hands of our agents in this field.

While canvassing for the paper, we have carried a few of our smaller books, such as "Steps to Christ," "His Glorious Appearing," "Prophetic Lights," "Gospel Primer," and "Gospel Reader,"