

# ABORIGINES' MISSION.

## MISSIONARY FROM NEWCASTLE.

A well-attended meeting was held last night in the Central Hall, King-street, for the purpose of setting apart Miss Pain for missionary work among the aborigines of New South Wales. The Rev. Rainsford Bavin presided, and on the platform were the Rev. G. H. Hewitt, president of the Christian Endeavour District Union, Messrs. E. Wilson, J. Paterson, W. G. Stewart, G. Furlong, C. Golden, Mrs. Olson, and the Misses Pain and Dixon.

The chairman briefly addressed the meeting, pointing out that the gathering that night was primarily a missionary one, as they were to induct Miss Pain to missionary work amongst the aborigines of St. Clair, near Singleton. In the second place, it was a Christian Endeavour meeting to receive the joint annual report and say farewell to Mr. G. Furlong. He hoped that the spiritual revival they were praying for would break out that night. Another hymn having been sung, the chairman asked Miss Pain to speak of her call to the work.

Miss Pain said she thought of missionary work when a three-year-old child sat on her grandmother's knee. She had never lost that desire, and in the Wickham Church and Christian Endeavour Society she received her training. Her desire was to go to Fiji. At a Christian Endeavour Convention she felt the Lord's call to the aborigines, and twelve months later she knew that the call was confirmed. She appealed to fellow Christian Endeavourers to remember how precious were the souls of the aborigines. Souls were dying, and what were they doing to save them? There were thousands who had never heard of Christ, because some Christians would not surrender their homes and privileges. God was their sufficiency, and she realised that the weak things of the world would confound the mighty. God was nearer to her since she had entered on her work. Miss Pain concluded with an appeal to her hearers to do the work to which they were called.

The meeting then offered up silent prayer for Miss Pain in her missionary work, and this was followed by a fervent prayer by the chairman.

The Rev. G. H. Hewitt, president of the Christian Endeavour District Union, said that his mind went back over long years to the night when he was set apart to God's work, and he remembered the solemn delight that filled him. He prayed God that their sister might lead many aborigines to Christ. Though he was proud of his native land, he was sometimes filled with deep shame when he thought of the little that had been done for the aborigines. He was proud to know that one more mission sister was going forth to the aborigines from the Newcastle Christian Endeavour District Union. She would have the prayers of the 1400 Christian Endeavourers whom she left behind, and those prayers would sustain her when she was despondent. He prayed that the Spirit of God might rest upon her, nor did he doubt that she would be successful, although the success might never be tabulated in figures. The speaker quoted instances of the power of the Cross to uplift the most savage or sunken races, and concluded with an earnest God-speed to Miss Pain.

All the Endeavourers present then entered into an engagement to pray weekly for Miss Pain.

Mr. Charles Golden, an aboriginal, and secretary of the La Perouse Christian Endeavour Society, addressed the meeting, urging those present to work and pray for Christ's Kingdom.

Miss Dixon said she had a message for them, and it was "Abraham obeyed." They could say that Miss Pain, too, had obeyed the same voice, calling her to give up home and friends. The same call had come to Moses, Gideon, Elijah, Amos, Peter, Matthew, Cromwell, Luther, Moody, Cary, Moffatt, and Evan Roberts. Had that voice called any in the audience, and had they obeyed? The call meant hardship, but the loving presence of Christ consoled for all. The speaker made a stirring appeal to all to obey the call.

Rev. Rainsford Bavin then gave the charge to Miss Pain in the form of two texts: "I will go in the strength of the Lord God. I will make mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only," and the reply, "My presence shall go with thee, and I shall give thee rest."

Mr. A. Jones presented the report of the Joint Christian Endeavour Societies who support a native missionary in New Britain.

Farewell was then taken of Mr. G. Furlong, who has hitherto occupied the position of superintendent of the Central Mission Sunday School, and is about to enter into foreign mission work. On behalf of the Central Mission the Rev. Rainsford Bavin presented Mr. Furlong with Wesley's sermons and Notes of the New Testament, and Chamber's Twentieth Century Dictionary, and a handsome pocket-book on behalf of the Christian Endeavour Society. Mr. Furlong suitably responded, and the meeting closed with the singing of "God be with you till we meet again," and the Mission benediction.