

Meston Training College & Wesley High School

Teachers' Association

A FAREWELL ADDRESS

PRESENTED TO

The Rev. T. R. Foulger, M. A.

(Principal, Meston Training College, Madras.)

Reverend and Dear Sir,

It is with deep feelings that we have gathered here to bid farewell to you, Sir, and Mrs. EMMA FOULGER, on the eve of your retirement after nearly 37 years of selfless and devoted service, to the cause of education and to the Church in South India.

It is a pleasure to remember that immediately after your arrival here in Madras in

October 1923, you were appointed to Wesley High School and in 1925 became the Headmaster. From 1931 to 1933 you were the Principal of Wesley College and on the closure of the College you became the Principal of Wesley High School. In 1937 by your untiring efforts, the Meston Training College was started and you have been the Principal from that year till your retirement now. It was not long before your enthusiasm and

abilities were recognised and you were entrusted with posts of responsibility both in the Church of South India and in the fields of religious and secular education. Your contribution, not only on the educational side but also on the spiritual side has been so great that from among the Staff have come a Bishop, many pastors and Headmasters, and many church leaders.

MISS EMMA HINDSON who became your life partner in 1925 has sustained and encouraged you in all the responsibilities you have undertaken. We will ever remember with pride and gratiude her work as Honorary Bursar of the College and School from 1931 to 1956. Her quiet and devoted service has captured the imagination of every one who came in contact with her.

The Teachers' Association was started in 1934, with you, Sir, as its first President. We remember with gratitude the help you have given to us all these years. You gave us facilities for a Tennis Club. Every year you have given us financial assistance for excursions to near and distant places. The Teachers' Day was started by you to enable

us come together with our families and have tea and entertainment around the Christmas tree. Through your initiative we were fortunate to obtain a Staff reading room with many facilities. We have been able to live and work here like members of a happy family, because of your great personality and paternal care for us.

The best tribute we can pay to you will be for us to follow the good example set by you in the matter of love and affection, impartial judgement, regard for personality, sense of justice, freedom to others. devotion to duty, hard work and fear of God. You have been trying to live yourself according to the mottoes of the College and School: in love and service, and to the Glory of God:

We pray God to give you both long life, sound health, continued happiness and well earned rest.

Yours affectionately,

The President and Members of the Teachers' Association
Royapettah, 7th March, 1960

Farewell Song Sung to Rev. and Mrs. Foulger
at Public Meeting held at Meston Training College
grounds on 25-3-1960

SONG COMPOSED BY
S. PONNURAJ SOLOMON

(வாடிக்கை மறந்திடுவோமே என்ற மெட்டு)

வாழ்த்திடுவோம் - நம் துரையை
வழி அனுப்பிடுவோம் - நம் துரையை
ஆண்டவர் தாமே அருள் புரிவாரே
நீண்ட ஆயுசும் பலமும் - வாழ்த்தி - ஆ ஆ ஆ
(பல்லவி)

சொந்த நாட்டினை விட்டு இந்தியா வந்து
கல்விக்காக பாடுகள் பட்டார்
தம் வாழ்க்கையில் வாழ்ந்திட்ட பெரியார்
அதை நமக்கும் ஊட்டிட்ட துரையார்
என்றுமே மறவோம் துரை அவர்களையும்
அம்மா அவர்களையுமே - வாழ்த்தி - ஆ ஆ ஆ
(அனுபல்லவி)

மாசில்லாத உள்ளத்தோடு
சேவைகள் பல புரிந்தாரே
கல்வி என்னும் சோலை தன்னில்
இன்பங்கள் கண்டக மகிழ்ந்தாரே
ஊக்கமுடன் சேவை செய்தாரே - வாழ்த்தி - ஆ ஆ ஆ
(பல்லவி)

மெஸ்ட்டன் கல்லூரியும், எம். எட். படிப்பும்
ஆதாரக் கல்வியும் ஆரம்பித்த பெரியார்
• இன்னல்கள் பல ஈன்ற போதிலும்
ஊக்கமுடன் செயல் புரிந்தாரே
உத்தமராகிய பெளல்ஜர்களையே
என்றும் - நாம் - மறவோமே - வாழ்த்தி - ஆ ஆ ஆ

A TRIBUTE TO THE FOULGERS

To plan great things and see them set in motion and build them up to great proportions within one's life time, is, by no means, an easy task. It is only to a chosen few that the Lord gives the vision and the necessary sustenance to see that their services to society at large, bear rich rewards.

If today, the Ramakrishna Mission Institutions in Thyagarayanagar have grown out of proportions or the Meston Training College a premier institution for the imparting of sound training to teachers this achievement is, in no small degree, due to the foresight, industry and incessant labour of veteran educationists, like Maharishi S. Vasudevachariar and the Rev. T. R. Foulger, both of whom have been colleagues on the staff of the Wesley College for wellnigh 40 years. Sri Vasudevachariar served the Wesleyan Mission Institution as Headmaster, and, in later years, as Vice-Principal and retired in 1932 to start the Ramakrishna Mission Educational Institutions in Thyagarayanagar; while the Rev. T. R. Foulger joined the Wesley High School in the early twenties and later was Principal of the Wesley College, till 1933. After a short spell of 4 years, the first training institution in Madras run by the christian Mission came into existence in 1937. More than two decades have elapsed and today with its B. T. and M. Ed. Courses, the training college occupies a foremost place in the teacher-training institutions in South India. The Mestonians who have had the good fortune to come under the care of the Rev. T. R. Foulger and Mr. B. Clutterbuck will be living examples of what ceaseless endeavour can produce. The Rev. T. R. Foul-

ger has given the training institutions life and speed by his selfless efforts, driving force, inspiring guidance and untiring vigil.

I had the good fortune to join the Wesley High School in the primary department when the Rev. C. Pollard was the Principal and during my study up to the Intermediate, I came under the care of a succession of Principals like the Rev. J. E. Neill, the Rev. C. Kingsley Williams and the Rev. J. S. M. Hooper. Later it was in 1926 when I joined the staff of the Wesley College in the Chemistry Department, that I came in contact with the Rev. T. R. Foulger. He struck us all by his marks of greatness even then. After a stay of 3 years in the College, I joined the staff of the Madras Christian College and again came back as Lecturer in Physics when I had the privilege of serving under the Rev. T. R. Foulger. The kindness with which I was treated has made me beholden to him, in all respects. I had also the privilege of serving as Secretary to the College Staff Council. Many were the opportunities that I had, in coming in to a closer contact with the Rev. Foulger and I found in him a benevolent heart, marks of deep sympathy and understanding. During one of those Staff Council Meetings, I had omitted to enter in the minutes book the absence of the Telugu Lecturer, Mr. K. Desikachariar and Mr. Foulger courteously drew my attention to it. A secretary needs be careful in all matters-trivial or tremendous. This incident may be of no merit but herein is found the evaluation of a man's character-that perfection lies in close attention even to minute details. His smiling countenance and cheerful disposition have

endeared him to one and all of us. The year 1933 was the last year of the Arts Course in the Wesley College. I, along with less fortunate brethren had to seek my fortunes elsewhere. However the retrospect brings before me a lively image carrying me back to that distant period.

Mrs. Foulger came in as Bursar in 1932 when my most revered uncle, Sri. S. Vasudevachariar who was, for a long time, also the Bursar of the College, retired. The high esteem with which my uncle was held by all the European Missionaries, with whom he came into contact bears no parallel. Even after my uncle's retirement, many have been the occasions when his council was sought after. I have heard from those connected with the College that Mrs. Foulger like cle-

ver woman, husbanded the resources of the institution with care, accuracy and devotion.

The Foulgers deserve, in rich measure, a well-merited rest. Their life has been one of consecration and has been lived to the full and in plenty. The institution they have built up and served will ever remain as a standing monument to their glorious aspirations and achievements. May I, along with the long list of admirers, pay my just share of tribute to the Foulgers, and pray to the Lord to endow them with a life of happy and blessed retirement!

N. SRINIVASACHARIAR,

Headmaster.

SRI RAMAKRISHNA HIGH SCHOOL
T. NAGAR, MADRAS-17