

Many expressed the opinion that it was the best Conference they had attended in many a year.—*Missions.*

## THE CLIMAX AT THE FOREIGN MISSIONS CONVENTION

By John Smith Lowe

Now for the climax, the thing which struck me so forcibly. I had about given up hope that anything of the kind would happen. It came suddenly and unexpectedly at last, as things of the kind usually do. It happened Sunday night. The Auditorium was packed. Two major addresses were on the calendar—one by the Rev. V. F. Goodsell, D.D., of Constantinople, and one by the Rev. Samuel Zwemer, D.D., of Cairo, both of them men of recognized ability and authority. In studying the program for the evening, I noticed the following seemingly unimportant sentence sandwiched in between the prayer and the first of the two speeches for which I was so keen: "Testimonies by missionaries under appointment on 'Reasons Why We Go as Foreign Missionaries.'" I attached but little significance to this interpolation in the regular order of events and found myself hoping that the testimonies would be few in number and short in duration. I certainly was not prepared for what happened, and I never dreamed that in these testimonies I would find the thing that was to strike me with such telling effect. But it was in this connection that the supreme moment of transfiguration came as with the rushing of a mighty wind.

Three "under appointment" told their stories—two young men and one young woman. Almost before I knew it the preliminary hymn and brief prayer were out of the way and these young people were having their say. I do not remember their names and they were not recorded on the program. They did not speak longer than six or seven minutes each, but the effect of what they said and of the spirit back of it, was the most electrical experience I have ever had or witnessed. First we heard from one of the young men. He was, in bearing, up-standing, clean-cut and alert. He goes to the Orient to serve as an educational missionary. "My

going as a foreign missionary," he began, "is not unusual. It is the natural thing for me to do. Some things here at home make it hard for me to go. I see so many expensive churches going up in my own land, costing huge sums of money, complete in equipment from chimes to gymnasium, but without a particle of vision beyond themselves. They are like lighthouses with no light in them. Christian America is too slow in actually Christianizing herself in industry, business, politics, education, finance, and diplomacy. The solution of our economic problems is in the Orient, but we can never solve them over there until we solve them over here. We turn more Chinese men into infidels in one year in our American universities that we win to our Christian faith in China during the same length of time." You felt the tenseness of the atmosphere in the auditorium. You were stunned by the young man's courage and inspired by his depth of consecration.

That was a good start. In a flash the presiding officer was introducing the young woman. To my surprise she turned out to be the daughter of Mr. Goodsell, already mentioned as the first major speaker of the evening, and a life-long educational missionary to Turkey. The two were on the platform together, father and daughter. Beautiful and charming to an unusual degree, highly educated and richly endowed, she faced the great audience with ease and grace. Graduating from Wellesley College last June, she gives her life to the work to which her distinguished father has given his before her. Had she chosen to do otherwise and to stay here in America the road to ease, wealth, luxury, favorable marriage and social prominence would have been wide open to her. She made no mention of these things; you sensed them yourself. What she said did not consume more than three or four minutes, but words can not describe the spiritual vibrations that went through that great throng as she quietly gave utterance to what was in her soul. "I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me because I am the daughter of a missionary and was born in Turkey, have always lived in Turkey, and will go there to serve. I am thankful that my childhood days were spent