

silver, a half score of vases in bronze, and— But here is the order which I shall have ready—"

"That is enough. I am pleased with your skill and promptness and shall reward them," said the king, presenting his hand, which the artisan reverently touched with his lips.

King Hiram emerged from the network of streets and by-ways upon the Eurychorus Square, crossing which the royal palanquin disappeared beneath the portal of his palace. This was the residence of the ancient kings of Tyre. It was a large building constructed of great blocks of stone, which were joined without mortar on smooth-fitting surfaces. About each stone was a depressed border or bevel which clearly marked the size of the blocks, making the whole more impressive to the eye and at the same time revealing the antiquity of its construction. The edifice was windowless on the exterior. The only entrance was guarded by an enormous gate of oaken planks which were banded together with thick and broad bars of burnished bronze. Legs and sockets of the same metal made the hinges. It required the full strength of two burly porters to open these doors, for their great weight and the generations during which they had done service had worn the sockets into irregular shapes. As old Goliab, the porter, closed his half of the folding pair and watched his comrade struggle with the other, he remarked:—

"The hinges squeak like a howling priest. If they had not been used since the days of the Great Hiram our king would order them to be taken off and the new fashioned ones put on."

"Hist, now!" replied his comrade. "They say that the king is going to stop the priests' howling first. The priests suck in the old ways they have worn for themselves which, Baal save me! are not the ways the gods made when they lived in Tyre; and may be they lived in this same palace, for they do say that the first king was a god."

"Have a care!" rejoined Goliab. "I have seen many a priest watching this gate of late. Who knows but they will take it for a temple and move in themselves?"

"Then I move out. I serve none less than the king. But have you read the proclamation, Goliab? I thank Astarte for never sending me any children to be burned to Moloch."

"That is not for such as we to talk about," replied Goliab.

"Why not?"

"Because," lowering his voice to a whisper, "there's a priest outside this moment. I can see his shadow through the crack under the gate."

The palanquin bearers set down their royal burden in the court around which the palace was built. Hiram alighted by the fountain that rose in the centre and flung its spray over the beds of flowers which tastefully decorated the borders of its marble basin. He lingered a moment under an orange tree, whose silver blossoms and golden fruit, in simultaneous fulness, made him think of a proverb that was common every where in those lands famous for their orange groves: "A timely word is like golden fruit in a basket of silver." And then he thought of Hanno's words on the bireme. "Were they timely? Does Hanno know of dangers that I am ignorant of?"

He sought his private chamber, a room whose high walls were lined with alabaster, great pieces of which were cut into noble panels and carved with delicate tracery. The room was lighted chiefly through windows set near the ceiling, covered with curiously shaped bits of glass which flung variegated colours, as in a floral shower, upon the white walls and floors. Servants loosed his sandals, washed his feet, brought perfumed water for his hands and face. His hair-dresser was ready with his ointment; his wardrobe-keeper with the special chiton and tunic which he knew his master liked. Others came bearing a repast.

When he had eaten and taken a double cup of wine—for the mental excitement of the council, together with the physical exhilaration of the run upon the sea, prompted that unusual indulgence—the king threw himself upon the divan to think. He first scanned with knit brows and curling lip a copy of the proclamation of the council, which he found upon his table. The parchment, however, soon fell from his hand, for he was tired even of his own wrath. The lines of writing changed into thick webs which, it seemed to him, gigantic spiders had spun about the room. He looked closely at one of these monsters. Its head was surely that of Egebalus. There was a smaller spider with the leering look of Rubaal. Ahimelek, too, with sleek, smooth face of hypocritical amiability, and a score of legs with anchors on them for sandals, was timidly crawling out of a corner. Then Hanno appeared and walked straight through the tangled webs, and the spiders darted into holes from which, with little red eyes, they watched the intruder. Then, with unrustling robes, Zillah came. In the light which her presence dispensed the webs disappeared, as those on the dewy grass vanish under the sun's beams in the morning. The king dreamed—dreamed of such things as will never happen until Astarte abdicates her direction of woman's life and love-sick Adonis takes her place.

(To be continued.)

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OFFICIAL information shows that during last year, as in the year before, there was a considerable decrease in the letters received and personal enquiries made at the Emigrants' Information Office. Thus, the number of letters received was 8,381, a decrease of 3,698; and the number of personal enquiries made was 5,065, a decrease of 753. This continuous decrease in the number of applications, corresponding with the diminution in the numbers of actual emigrants as shown in the Board of Trade returns, is considered satisfactory as an indication of prosperous times in the United Kingdom. The chief classes of callers during the year were mechanics, general labourers, clerks, and female servants, in the order given. The number of applications relating to South Africa was maintained, and the number relating to the tropical British Colonies and foreign countries was slightly increased.

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## THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

### FOREIGN MISSION SECRETARY.

Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, has forwarded the following for publication—

In their report to the General Assembly, presented in June last, the Foreign Mission Committee (Western Division) recommended the appointment of a Permanent Secretary, and after lengthened consideration of the recommendation the Assembly adopted the following resolution:—

"That the question of appointing an agent for the Western Division of the Church, to act as Secretary of the Foreign Mission work of the Church—such agent to represent the Foreign Mission work among the congregations of the Church, as well as to keep the minutes and conduct the correspondence of the Committee—be sent down to Presbyteries for consideration, with instructions to nominate a suitable person for the office should they approve of such an appointment, and report to next Assembly." (Assembly Minutes, p. 36.)

The wording of this resolution is not that of the Committee, but of the members of Assembly who moved and seconded it. The Committee's recommendation did not define the duties of the proposed Secretary.

This remit will no doubt before long come before your Presbytery for consideration, and, as a member of the Committee that offered the recommendation to the Assembly, and knowing in some measure the need of such an officer as has been asked for, I venture respectfully to submit for the consideration of your Presbytery the following reasons for approving of such an appointment. I write merely as an individual member of the Committee, and not in any sense as representing the Committee, which has not taken formal action in the matter of presenting reasons in support of their recommendation.

1. The work of the Committee is year by year growing more important. Our missions must either expand or go backwards, and expansion cannot be successful without considerable attention to details, involving correspondence and personal interviews with various people at all times of the day.

2. The amount of money expended under the direction of the Committee increases as the Missions increase, and there should be some one on the Committee able to supervise and keep track of the details of the expenditure. At the present time, if any information is required in regard to the details of expenditure, application has to be made to the Rev. Dr. Reid, who certainly looks after the Foreign Mission Fund, as he looks after all the other funds of the Church, with marvellous accuracy and success, but he cannot be expected to charge himself with the minute knowledge in regard to all Mission expenditures which some officer of the Committee ought to have, so that when any matter relating to the expenditure of our funds is under discussion the Committee or Executive may have full information at hand.

3. The Church ought to be furnished from time to time with greater details of the work under the charge of the Committee than are furnished at present. It would be helpful to have statistical information of various kinds published now and again. Interest in the work would be quickened and the people would be satisfied that their money is being spent to the best possible advantage.

4. It is generally admitted that the Church has not come up to the full measure of its ability in the extension and support of Foreign Missions. It would be helped towards this point if there were an officer of the Committee who could, as he might be desired by ministers, visit congregations or Presbyteries and lay before them the facts of work done and of needs to be met in the Foreign Fields upon which our Church has entered. We would not require a person with very gifted tongue, who might move the people by his eloquence, but rather one who could with simplicity and clearness put the facts before the people. They need no more than this if they are under good pastoral charge, as we rejoice to think most of our people are, to be brought to a very much higher degree of interest and co-operation in this work. The pastors could surely have no objection to such a visit. On the contrary they ought to welcome it. They can scarcely keep so fully informed in regard to the Foreign Mission work as would be such an officer.

5. Why should the foreign work be expected to prosper with so very much less effort than is given to the home work? Those for whom the foreign work is carried on are far distant from the people, their terrible need is not under our very eyes as is the need in the Home Mission Field, and it is only natural that there should be forgetfulness in regard to what is not brought closely home to us. Now in the Home Field, notwithstanding that the needs are right before our very eyes and that every Presbytery is concerned about it, it is yet found necessary to have Mr. Findlay devoting his whole time to the work carried on in Muskoka and Algoma and to have Dr. Robertson constantly going through the Church from one end of the Dominion to the other, presenting the needs of the work.

6. The correspondence incidental to the proper carrying on of the work is large and growing. It may be that some may think that more letters are written than is necessary. I believe that too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of prompt and ample answers being given to all communications connected with the work. But, even if the correspondence be in a measure curtailed, there must necessarily be a very large number of letters written, many of them with very considerable care and after long deliberation. The over-

looking of correspondence, amid the pressure of other duties, has more than once been the occasion of embarrassment to the Committee.

7. By a careful preparation of the matters to be laid before the Committee considerable time might be saved the other members of the Committee, and yet no information be withheld from them which it is important that they should receive.

8. The proper keeping of the minutes of the Committee, etc., and the furnishing of copies of letters to the Church papers also involve a good deal of labour.

It may be that I have an exaggerated view of the need of such a Secretary. While I attempt to discharge the at present much more limited duties of the Committee's Secretary, I found it difficult to give sufficient attention to the correspondence to enable me to overtake everything at once, and thus in some measure there had to be a going over of the work when I took up matters a second time. It may be that a minister, who might have his time more at his own disposal and could regulate his appointments, in some measure to suit his own convenience, would not experience that difficulty and would not find the attention to the Secretarial work of our Committee as onerous as I did. I cannot help thinking, however, that if the outline I have given of what are the duties to be performed is at all correct, any minister in a responsible charge would find himself pretty well taxed to overtake them.

I think it is manifest, from what has been stated, that a mere clerk would not be able to fill the office. There is needed some one who would have a thorough grasp of the whole work of the Committee and who would be in touch and sympathy with the Church, and whose words and letters would carry weight.

If any business corporation had in hand the management of such a widespread and important work and the control of such a large expenditure of money as are under the management and control of the Foreign Mission Committee, it can scarcely be doubted that the directors would be looked upon as very censurable if they neglected to put a competent officer in charge, and even if the appointment of a Permanent Secretary should involve the expenditure of \$2,000 or \$2,500 per annum, the money will be well spent in the interests of the Church.

Trusting that I have not overstepped the limits of your patience, believe me to be, yours very sincerely,

HAMILTON CASSELS.

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was where Andrew Carnegie gained his start; forty years ago a poor Scotch boy—to-day, prince of manufacturers, author, and philanthropist. It is from his own experience that he is to write for *The Youth's Companion* on "Habits of Thrift."

### CATHEDRAL TONES.

The magnificent chime of bells, which has been made for St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, at the Clinton H. Meneely foundry in this city, and whose pleasing tones are daily heard by many of our readers, seems destined to help the industry of this community and add to the reputation of "Troy bells" even before its departure from the foundry. This great chime of sixteen bells, aggregating nearly 32,000 pounds and costing \$16,000, has been visited by many of the most prominent musicians in this country. These have not all been idle calls, for one expert committee, representing J. Pierpont Morgan, the eminent New York banker, requested Mr. Meneely to duplicate one of the cathedra bells as Mr. Morgan's memorial gift to a church in Connecticut; and, upon the report of another musical committee, Trinity Church corporation of New York has ordered a peal of four bells, aggregating 13,000 pounds, as duplicates of some of these chime bells, for St. Agnes' chapel in the same city.—*Troy Times*.

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