

be, one of the most prominent of the foreign speakers said: "Ah! but we never know. Mr. Moody never tells us beforehand who is to speak. I know that I am not to preach to-night, but I don't know about to-morrow." It must be a trying experience for the speakers, who must be always ready and are never sure when they may be called upon, but it answers the double purpose of keeping expectation on the stretch and allowing the leader to shape the course of thought and study according to the changing need of the moment. A mistake may be rectified, an extreme utterance modified or offset, a false start headed off or withdrawn.

An interesting proof at once of the latent enthusiasm of the audiences and of Mr. Moody's cool good sense came almost at the close of the conference. After the evening sermon Dr. A. T. Pierson, in one of his most intense and eloquent moods, spoke of the embarrassment of the mission boards and the number of young men and women who are ready, but who cannot be sent to foreign fields for lack of money, and then impulsively proposed that there should be a Northfield supplementary fund to be used in spreading information and in sending out workers whom the boards had no means to send. The audience responded instantly; large sums of money were offered and larger sums pledged. The whole new movement was apparently launched, but through it all Mr. Moody sat quietly and said never a word, except to tell people who came to him to give him their names but not their money. After the meeting was over he pointed out in private conference that the plan involved the setting up of a new mission board in Northfield, where there was no provision for it, and that it was likely to be misinterpreted and taken to imply lack of confidence in the boards. In the morning the whole plan was withdrawn by a rising vote proposed by the mover of it, and Mr. Moody was cheered when he proclaimed his entire confidence founded on personal knowledge of the agents of the American Board and the other boards, and urged people to send them money they had offered, and yet more, to these recognized and honored agencies.

The purpose of this general conference of Christian workers, this year more fully apparent than ever, is development of the personal life with Christ by devout study of the Bible. This is the touchstone. A speaker is free on the Northfield platform, but once he has spoken a word which dishonors the Book he has spoken his last word there. The method, which is after Mr. Moody's own heart, has perhaps never had a more perfect exposition than in the preaching of the two young English preachers who have carried the heavy end of the convention work. They are both London pastors, Rev. George Campbell Morgan of the New Court Congregational Church and Rev. H. C. Macgregor of the Notting Hill Presbyterian Church, of which Dr. Saphir was the pastor. Both had been in America, but they had never met until upon receiving Mr. Moody's invitation to speak at the conference they made an appointment for half an hour's talk. They are entirely different in method and singularly fitted on that account to supplement each other. When one speaks the other ordinarily follows. Mr. Morgan's clear analysis and insight lend force to his pungent appeals to conscience. Mr. Macgregor speaks from as full a study of the Bible with effective simplicity and earnestness. Carrying out the purpose of the conference, they have sought to edify rather than to urge to service, believing that the highest type of Christian character cannot fail to make itself felt wherever it is found. This is the growing sense of opportunity at Northfield. It is not evangelism but holiness, and this is the thought which Mr. Moody—wisely or unwisely—has carried into his recent evangelistic campaigns. Christ manifested in the church will draw the world. If the church can be quickened and raised to a higher type of living, great results for the world must follow.

The earlier conventions for students naturally take on a somewhat different color. There is more instruction and more personal work. Six hundred college men were in Northfield in early July representing the organized Christian students of six continents. Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. van Dyke, and Mr. John R. Mott, who has just returned from a world tour, in which he has

visited and organized the students for Christian work, were the most useful speakers. The girls' conference is not so exclusively of college students nor of declared Christians. It fell this year on a week of heavy rains, which made it difficult to hold public meetings, but the smaller meetings in the separate buildings were all the more significant and useful, and among the 300 attendants there were many conversions.

It is the devotional life which is the crown of the Northfield year. There is intellectual stimulus, abundant opportunities for social enjoyment and out-of-door life are provided, but a stranger must yield to the devotional spirit or feel himself out of place. For spiritual help and sympathy, for opportunities of devotional—not critical—Bible study and meditation the opportunity is unique in America, if not in the world. It already attracts visitors from the ends of the earth. Those who have tasted its feast return again and again. It ought to become a retreat and an inspiration for many more.—I.O.R.

#### LI HUNG CHANG AND THE BIBLE.

Dr. Colman, of Peking, writing under date of May 15, 1897, relates the following very remarkable interview with that eminent Chinese statesman, Li Hung Chang:

"At a recent visit I made to His Excellency, Viceroy Li Hung Chang, I found him reading a beautiful Russian-leather bound copy of the New Testament, that had just been sent him by Rev. George Owen, of the London Mission. The type and paper were of the same kind as that presented to the Empress Dowager on her jubilee celebration a few years ago. The old gentleman was so intent on his reading that he did not notice me for several minutes, and as I could see the title of the book, I put up a silent but earnest prayer that God might send him some message in his reading that would appeal to his heart. In a little while he raised his eyes, and looking attentively at me, said, 'Dr. Colman,' or as he addressed me in Chinese, 'Man Tai fu, do you believe this book?' 'Your Excellency,' I replied, 'if I did not believe that book I should not have the honor of being your physician. I thoroughly believe it.' 'Are you sure it is not all rumor and report?' he again asked. 'Very sure,' I replied. 'How do you know?' he continued. 'By a test given in the book itself. Does it not say in the book that a bad tree cannot bring forth good fruit, nor a good tree bad fruit? Your Excellency has admitted to me previously, that the condition of the people in Western lands far surpass anything in the East, and I can assure you that the happiness and prosperity of the various nations you have recently visited is in direct proportion to the nearness with which they live to the precepts taught in that Book. Would that Your Excellency also believed it.' Why, 'I believe that you would like me to turn Christian,' he said, in a half-joking, half-earnest tone. 'Not only you,' I replied, 'but your young emperor and all his people.' 'We have Confucius,' he replied, 'and you have your Jesus; are they not much the same?' 'By their fruits ye shall know them,' I replied. Then, before we could carry on the conversation further, important dispatches were brought in, and the viceroy had to give them his attention; but as a servant took the book from his hands to place it in his library, he said, 'Don't carry it to the library; take it to my bedroom table. I wish to look at it again.'—*The Church at Home and Abroad.*

#### MAKE A NOTE OF THIS, YOUNG MEN.

Young men who read Dr. Nansen's (the famous Arctic explorer) book and are so greatly interested, should make a note of what he says concerning alcoholic liquors. Coming from such a source the statement carries great weight. He says, "It is often supposed that even though spirits are not intended for daily use they ought to be taken upon an expedition for medicinal purposes. I would readily acknowledge this if any one could show me a single case in which such a remedy is necessary; but till this is done I shall maintain that this pretext is not sufficient, and that the best course is to brush alcoholic drinks from the list of necessities for an Arctic expedition."

When Dean Swift was arguing one day with great coolness with a gentleman who had become exceedingly warm in the dispute, one of the company asked him how he could keep his temper so well. "The reason is," replied the Dean, "I have truth on my side."