

"For the inhabitant of the hill country of Judah the autumn has its special, and right around Bethlehem, peculiar charm. Especially do the maidens love to give expression in song to the universal joy, answering each other back and forth from the trees the livelong day in responsive refrains and popular melodies peculiar to the district. When autumn comes, nothing has any longer power to keep the Bethlehemite, young or old, in the house. It draws him out into the open air, into the Kurum (vineyards), where he takes up his summer abode under his vine and figtree. Why, in this case, are the vine and figtree especially mentioned in the Bible of old and in Palestine to-day? Because both have qualities which are able to fetter the owner for a good long while to his vineyard; the vine, because the different sorts of grapes do not ripen simultaneously, but during a season of five months; the figtree, because this likewise, whose sweet fruits offer themselves for daily plucking, distribute them over three months."

The *Bulletin Missionaire* of the churches of French Switzerland, has a communication from M. Paul Berthoud, in which he describes the character of the new converts of the coast-town of Lourenco-Marquês, in Southeastern Africa:

"Ignorance the most profound is the first thing which strikes the spectator. By the side of this one remarks a religious feeling which is an unfailing source of encouragement and joy. But, finally, one is obliged to admit with grief the absence, one might say the complete absence, of the moral sense, which has been degraded, extinguished, annihilated, by a contact of several centuries with Europeans. Such are the three principal traits to be seen in the physiognomy of these souls which it is our work to instruct in the things of salvation."

"If, since the opening of the year," says M. Berthoud, "we have registered about 200 new confessions at Lourenco-Marquês, this cannot but be very encouraging to the friends of our mission. But it is not without some disposition to tremble that we rejoice, for we see things at very near range, and this city is filled full of the snares of Satan. Among these numerous neophytes, I have good hope that most will resemble the good ground in which the divine seed has germinated and brought forth abundance; but how many who will probably prove like the ground where the thorns will choke the plant, when they have to choose resolutely between a holy life and their old courses. It would be easy to have retained some who have already abandoned us. But if we did that, what would become of the Word of God, which says: 'Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.' 'Be ye holy, for I am holy.'"

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We give below the results of work done in the churches during last summer's vacation by several volunteers.

Mr. J. P. Stoops, of Union Theological Seminary, presented the volunteer movement to 45 congregations, all of whom were favorably impressed; five responded immediately, ten expect soon to have their missionary, and 49 names were received as volunteers. Mr. A. N. O'Brien during the summer secured the pledges of 85 volunteers and the sum of \$445 per year for five years.

In addition to this should be mentioned the deepening work among volunteers. Mr. Edwin B. Stiles, who, with his wife, has lately sailed for India, reports as conclusions reached from his summer's experience that the people are waiting to be instructed on the subject of foreign missions, and when instructed are ready to give; that intelligent interest among the masses is increasing; and that there is a crying need of more thorough system in giving, a thing which he has demonstrated can be accomplished by presenting to young people's societies in all its significance the present uprising of young people for foreign missions.

An inspiring report also comes from Mr. W. W. Smith, of Princeton, '89:

"When the idea entered my head some months ago to devote a part of my summer to a missionary tour of one of the States, great apprehension arose as to my fitness in any possible way for the work. But God said, 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit'; and so I determined to try. After the Northfield Bible school closed, Mr. Wilder and I went to Springfield, Mass., where between us we spoke in ten different places. As a result four churches adopted the 'plan for volunteer gifts for foreign missions.' We then divided forces, Mr. Wilder leaving for Niagara, while I continued the work in Massachusetts, and later in Northern, Central, and Eastern New York, Northern New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. In the Y. M. C. A. at Brocton, Mass., there was an audience of but 35, six of whom offered to go to the foreign field as missionaries. Nine young men pledged \$93.60 per year towards the support of a missionary representative; twelve were already giving \$1.00 per week besides. They have now chosen one of the six to educate as a gen-