

Missionary Information in a Nutshell.

Selected from "The Evangelization of the World in This Generation," by John R. Mott.

CAREY'S first Bengali Bible sold for \$20; now a copy may be purchased for a few cents.

It took Carey nearly five months to go from Dover to Calcutta in 1793. One can make the trip now in three weeks.

In 1800 there were only 100 foreign missionaries. At the present time there are 15,460, including women workers.

The collective gifts of all Protestants to foreign missions in 1800 were about \$75. In 1899 Dr. Dennis estimated the givings at \$19,000,000.

It should be remembered that all modern facilities of increasing our knowledge of the heathen are given, and thereby have increased our obligations.

In 1817 Moffat was three months in making the journey from Gravesend, England, to Cape Town, South Africa. Now the voyage lasts less than two weeks.

At the beginning of the century there were six Protestant missionary organizations. Dr. Dennis gives 637 as the present number of foreign missionary society Auxiliaries.

In 1800 the Bible existed in only sixty-six languages and dialects; now the British and Foreign Bible Society reports that the Bible is translated into 406 languages and dialects.

The thoroughly organized news agencies which, through the secular press, bring before the members of the Church facts regarding the most distant and needy nations, serve to awaken interest.

The cable and telegraph systems are of the greatest importance, and are used constantly by the missionary societies. They bring us the important news from the remote parts of the earth a few hours after an event takes place.

The printing press has greatly multiplied the power of the Church to disseminate Christian truth. Sixty years ago printing was done by hand presses, and only from one to two hundred impressions could be taken in an hour; now there are presses which print, bind and fold 96,000 papers in an hour.

The greatest railway enterprises of the time are those now built or projected in non-Christian lands. At the present time England, America, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy and Japan, are either building or projecting railways.

A HUNDRED years ago nearly one-third of the globe was absolutely unknown. At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign, practically nothing was known of the interior of Japan, Central Asia, Thibet and Afghanistan. Now there are not less than eighty-eight geographical societies and one hundred and fifty-three geographical journals.

When Christ gave the great commission the disciples could not have gone to the world as we know it. A man now might go around the world five times in a year. Professor Ramsay points out, "There are not stronger influences in education and in demonstration than rapidity and ease of travelling and postal service. Paul, both by precept and example, impressed the importance of both on the Churches."

New Missionary Meetings.

The following paragraphs are taken from the book, "The Missionary Manual," by Amos R. Wells. It is published by the United Society of Christian Endeavor, and its price is thirty-five cents. The book contains hundreds of original plans as helpful as these, and is the best book of the sort ever written:

Native Heroism.—Divide this inspiring subject among the committees, asking the prayer-meeting committee, for instance, to bring to the meeting examples of the heroism of African converts, the Lookout Committee to do the same for Japan, etc. Almost any missionary biography or history will furnish you with many examples. So, also, will current missionary literature.

"The Ten Greatest Missionaries" may furnish the basis of a missionary programme. The Missionary Committee will wish to select them, and I will not even give my own list, which is as well, since you would not agree to it. Each of the ten lives may be considered, in different aspects, by more than one Endeavorer. Do not try to be exhaustive. For Livingstone, for instance, it will be enough if one speaks of his personal character, a second of his prominent missionary achievements, a third of the circumstances attending his death.

A Patience Meeting.—Patience is a lesson all missionaries and missionary workers have to learn, and the rewards of patience have been illustrated on almost every mission field. It will pay you to gather up, some evening, the stories of the world's prominent mission fields that have had a tedious, tiresome beginning, years dragging on without a single convert, and then a sunburst of success. Nearly every missionary biography and the history of nearly every mission field will afford you material for this meeting.

Missionary Camps.—Divide the society into groups, which you will call camps,—the Indian camp, the African camp, the Japanese camp, etc. They will sit together, the chairs being arranged in circles, and each camp will have five minutes in which to fire off guns at the rest. The "guns" consist of missionary items about the country from which their camp takes its name.

A Quotation Meeting.—Choose three missionaries that are good writers,—for example, Gilmour of Mongolia, Patterson of the South Seas, and Martyn of India and Persia. Make extracts from their writings and give them to a number of Endeavorers to read, asking each to comment briefly on the sentiment expressed. Follow each set of quotations with a short talk on the life of the missionary.

A Diagram Meeting.—Give each member a missionary fact that can be illustrated by a diagram, and get him to prepare it and show it at the next missionary meeting, with an explanation. Such a book as "The Missionary Past" (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 75 cents) will be very helpful here. For example the gifts to foreign missions by decades in the present century may be shown by a number of squares, each gloriously larger than the one before it. Islam may be shown as a tree, and on the branches may be written the names of some of the dreadful things that are the outgrowths from that false faith.

"Go Ye."

The command is short, sharp, imperative. "Go" preach the message, the world is redeemed. Go! carry it to the last downmost man in the world. Stop not to speculate whether without the gospel they may be saved from a hell here or hereafter. "Yours alone to reason why." What centuries from Augustine to John Wesley were thus vainly lost. Yours not to make reply; only yours to

go or die. It is not a question whether the heathen may be saved without sending them the gospel, but, as has been well said, "whether we can be saved if we do not obey Jesus Christ." "Go ye into all the world." Christ never commands the impossible. "Lo, I am with you even unto the end of the world."—*Rev. W. P. Thirkield, D.D.*

A Library in a Cracker-Box.

The British and Foreign Bible Society has published a unique and important edition of the Scriptures, said an attendant upon the recent world's missionary conference in New York.

It is a translation into the Uganda language. The volume is in shape very long, but is only three inches wide, and about three inches thick.

A peculiar reason occasioned the adoption of this form. In Central Africa the white ants and other insects rapidly destroy a book unless it is well protected. The representatives of the Church Missionary Society accordingly recommended to the Bible Society that they should issue this edition in a form that would fit into the tin biscuit-boxes of a certain firm, which are very generally used in Uganda families.

This has been done, and the ant-proof biscuit-box is just large enough to hold this Bible, a small Bible history, and a hymnal and a prayer-book. The missionaries say that this little library in a tin box is exceedingly popular in Uganda.

He Did Not Lose Much.

"Young people, you will never lose anything by giving to missions," one of our ministers said when addressing the League on Missionary night: "I have proven this to be true, with one exception, and I will tell you the exception. It was seen to a recruit where the greatest anxiety of the Church seemed to be to get enough money to pay the minister's salary. I determined to interest the people in missions. After I had worked hard at giving them missionary information, I began to collect missionary money. About the first person I called on was a well-to-do man who seemed astonished that I should ask him for a subscription. I talked with him over the wall, and he seemed proud and glad that our Church had missions in China and Japan. After a while, he said, 'Well, I guess I'll give you a lift, but remember, if you take it for missions it comes off your salary.' My salary was small, and I had to live; here was a temptation, but with a prayer for strength I was able to say to the man, 'Give all you have to give to missions and I'll do without it.' My heart gladdened at the thought of a good beginning for the missionary fund, and I was prepared to receive a liberal subscription. I wish you could have seen the man's hand go slowly down to the depths of his pocket, and then come more slowly out, while my thoughts were busy contemplating the possibilities of the contents of his pocket. At last his hand was free, and he handed me the magnificent sum of ten cents. Boys and girls, men and women, you will not lose anything by giving to missions if you give in the right spirit."

A CONVENTION was held in Dominion Square Methodist Church, Montreal, Friday, November 16th, afternoon and evening. A good spirit was manifested in both meetings; the reports were most encouraging. The united efforts of the Epworth Leaguers at the Wesleyan students have had a most beneficial effect upon the Church and Sunday-schools in arousing a deep missionary interest. The work of the convention was carried on principally by workers within the district. Rev. G. E. Hartwell from our mission in China, and Dr. Leslie of the Presbyterian mission, in the same country, gave addresses.