

THE TORONTO WEST DISTRICT.

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Our Missionary.

AFTER a series of missionary meetings had been held by Student missionary Campaigners throughout the Toronto West District Epworth League, the Executive of the District met at the residence of Mr. Strait, Islington, to consider what it would be best for the district to do. It was unanimously recommended that the Secretary ask each League to send a representation to meet Dr. Sutherland at the residence of Mr. F. C. Stephenson, 568 Parliament street, to consider the advisability of the district supporting a missionary. This meeting took place, and it was unanimously agreed that the Toronto West District Epworth League could and should support a missionary. The one recommended by Dr. Sutherland and chosen by the representatives of the District was Mr. Tong Chue Tom, of whose true Christian heroism Miss McGuffin has kindly written for this number of the CAMPAIGNER.

G. T. WATTS, *Pres., Toronto West District.*

Mr. Tong Chue Tom.

BY MISS B. MCGUFFIN.

THE Epworth Leagues of the Toronto West District, in assuming the support of a missionary, have made a most happy choice in selecting Mr. Tong Chue Tom, better known as Mr. Tom Chue, a Chinaman, who has by years of faithful service proved that his one aim is to honor God in laboring for his fellow-countrymen.

Mr. Tom was converted when he was quite young, and

amid much persecution, not from the Chinese alone, but from Canadian young men, who did not hesitate to play most cruel practical jokes upon him, he wavered not in true allegiance and loyalty to his new-found Saviour. In the Rev. Coverdale Watson he had ever found a firm friend, and on Mr. Watson returning to Toronto from Victoria, Tom resolved to follow him.

In Toronto he did not find it easy to earn sufficient to maintain himself, and the means he had brought with him being exhausted, he was much exercised regarding his future. To prepare himself for mission work was the one absorbing idea. Well do I remember meeting him just at this time when things were looking very dark. No work, and not much prospect of getting any, and no money. When leaving, a small amount of money was offered him, which he refused most decidedly, saying "while I have hands to work I cannot take money." But even these trials seemed to be among the "all things" that work for good, for some Toronto ladies hearing of his anxiety to study and his distress at not having the means, undertook to pay his board so as to permit him to attend school. Some of the boys who were then attending the Duchess street school still remember Tom with most kindly interest. During the time he was pursuing his studies he was a most valuable helper in the Chinese class in connection with the Metropolitan Church, and also much respected by every member of the Sunday School with whom he came in contact. After spending between one and two years at school he returned to British Columbia, where, for the last five years, he has been in the employ of the General Society, laboring first at Victoria, and afterwards at Nanaimo, this present Conference year being removed to New Westminster. Something of the spirit which governs the man may be judged by the following sentence taken from a letter written to one who has been a faithful friend of many years standing, referring to some arrangement of his work which seemed as though it might bring disappointment to him, he said: "I don't mind, I be good, I do good as long as I live to all people I can, no matter where I am. May God help me to do good and work everywhere."

In 1894 Mr. Tom Chue was married to San Kam, her English name being Gertrude, who, like her husband, is bent on serving the Master who has done so much for her. This sketch would not be complete without a few words regarding her, who is so truly a helpmate, extracts for which are taken from an article by Mrs. J. E. Gardner, published in the *Guardian*.

"Early one summer morning of 1887, a lady living in Victoria, B.C., heard the cries of a child, and thinking that it was a white child, hastened to learn what was the matter. Seeing a Chinaman talking to the supposed white child she hurried toward them, to find that it was a little Chinese girl crying very bitterly and seemingly afraid of the man. The distress of the child touched the lady's heart, and she demanded of the Chinaman, 'What for you talk little girl?' The neathen gentleman (?) did not seem prepared for this, and walked away. The lady then took the child by the hand and brought her to Mr. Gardner, who lived near, saying, 'I know you will be able to find out what the child wants; I didn't like the looks of the man who was talking to her.' As they came to the front door the little child caught sight of Mr. Gardner, and cried out in Chinese, 'This is the place; this is the place.'"