

apartment. The night, from sunset to sunrise, is spent on the flat house-top. It is the want of a cool interval that makes the heat so trying. In England a close, hot day at 85° or 90° makes one feel limp, but you can be sure of at least twelve hours' cool interval before it comes again. But no such recruiting-time arrives in these hot Eastern climates. A temperature of 95° at midnight is not infrequent. Just to show what it can be, I may mention that once in 1893, but only once I am thankful to say, we had a temperature of 115° at one o'clock in the night. Yet, as I said before, Baghdad is not altogether an unhealthy place, in spite of the absence of sanitation and cleanliness. Fresh air is there in abundance, and much of the time is spent in the open, on the roof or in the courtyard, and, when in the house, doors and windows are kept wide open, except in the coldest weather, which does not last too long. Food is good, though, in the

meetings of students ever held. The last one was attended by over 2,200 delegates. Students will be sent as delegates from the institutions of higher learning from all sections of the United States and Canada, and it is probable that five hundred institutions will be thus represented. Those in attendance will also include professors, national leaders of young people's organizations, returned missionaries, representatives of Foreign Mission Boards, and editors of religious papers.

The programme will consist of addresses during the morning and evening sessions, and section meetings for the consideration of missions from the standpoint of phases of work, the different missionary lands and of the denominations which are represented. The addresses which will be given will deal with the obligation of promoting the missionary enterprise, the means which are essential to its success and its relation to the

while similar movements have been inaugurated in Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavia, South Africa, Australia and other countries.

Post-Office Crusade.

GENEROUS DONORS WHO SHOW THEIR WARM INTEREST.

A large parcel of interesting papers for India has been received from Mr. Morrison, of Moore, Ont., also from Miss Abby Pease, of Richmond, Que., and \$8.25 from a generous gentleman who does not wish his name to be given.

M. E. COLE.

The Indispensable.

We must teach in a positive way, out of profound personal conviction, the simple 'facts' of the creed and the simple 'duties' of the Christian life. Incidentally we may throw light on difficulties we encounter; but the easiest way to dispose of intellectual difficulties is to keep the heart warm and the conscience clean. We may make concessions concerning certain old claims about the Bible and the church and the requirements of the Christian life, but even these must be made with caution, in kindness and in humility. It is not necessary to accept everything that even good people have defended as parts of the faith. But it is necessary to believe that the Bible contains the word of God, that supernaturalism is the only key to its fundamental teaching, and that 'life'—the life of the Spirit within and the life of obedience without—is the essential thing in Christianity. This is the work of the Christian ministry. In a sense, Sunday-school teaching is a part of that ministry.

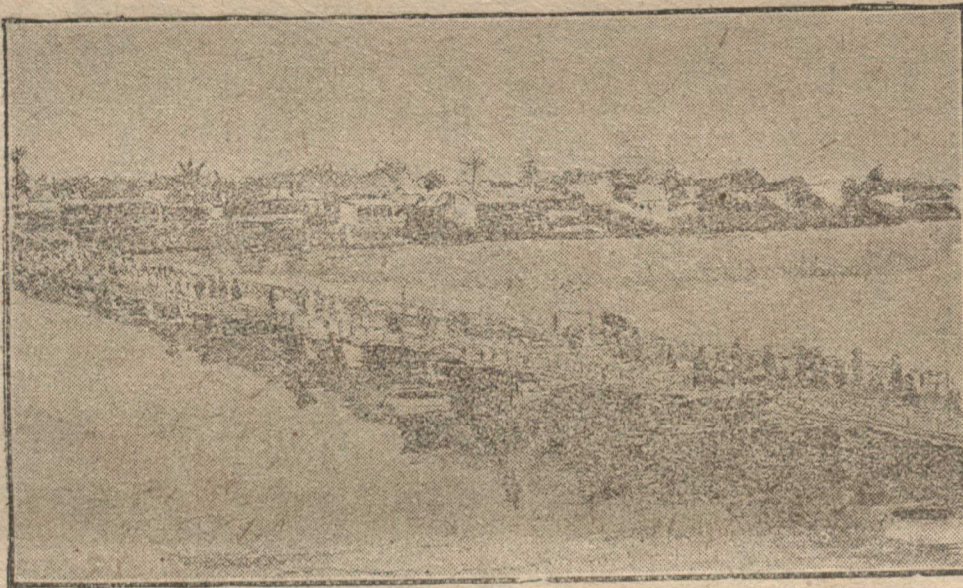
But here let the essential be emphasized: 'Personal religious experience that develops through God's grace, personal Christian character is indispensable to efficiency in the teaching of God's word.' The end aimed at is salvation—'salvation is health.' The agent, to be successful, must himself be saved. He must be what he teaches. Christian character-building is our work. We must have Christian characters. This cannot be made too much of, as we discuss the training of teachers. The superintendents must, by his conviction, his spiritual tone, the force of his personality, by his habit of expression and the consistency of his daily conduct, impress his school and especially his teachers with this radical, this supreme idea.—Bishop Vincent.

Silent Keys.

As we would touch with soft caress the brow
Of one who dreams, the spell of sleep to
break,
Across the yellowed keys I sweep my hand,
The old, remembered music to awake;
But something drops from out those melodies—
There are some silent keys.

So is it when I call to those I loved,
Who blessed my life with tender care and
fond;
So is it with those early dreams and hopes,
Some voices answer and some notes respond,
But in the cords that I would strike, like
these.
There are some silent keys.

Heart, dost thou hear not in those pauses
fall
A still, small voice that speaks to thee of
peace?
What though some hopes may fail, some
dreams be lost,
Though sometimes happy music break and
cease.
We might miss part of heaven's minstrelries
But for these silent keys.
—Selected.



BRIDGE OF BOATS OVER THE TIGRIS.

vegetable line, rather deficient in variety. The drinking water is palatable if not pure, and is obtained from the Tigris, one of the four rivers that flowed out of Eden, still retaining in Arabic the equivalent of its ancient name Hiddekel. It is shown in the illustration, where the bridge of boats connects the two sides of the city. The river-boat in general use is also shown, circular in shape, capacious, made of basket-work (hence called 'guffah'), and covered with butumen.

Baghdad, which was originally (in 1882) occupied by the C.M.S. as an outpost of the Persia Mission, on account of the large numbers of Persian pilgrims passing through it to the Shiah shrines in its neighborhood, has now been made into a separate centre, under the name of the Turkish Arabia Mission. Situated in that northern part of Arabia which is under Turkish rule, missionary work is carried on from the borders of the Persia Mission on the east, across Mesopotamia and the Euphrates to the Syrian desert on the west, and from Mosul, the ancient Nineveh, on the north to our neighbors of the American Arabia Mission at the head of the Persian Gulf on the south.

Great Convention of Students will Meet in Toronto.

The Fourth International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement will meet in Toronto, Canada, from Feb. 26 to March 2. The previous Conventions were held at Cleveland, in 1891, in Detroit, in 1894, and in Cleveland, in 1898, and were the largest

students of this continent. Among the speakers are Mr. Robert E. Speer, Mr. John R. Mott, who will return from his tour around the world to preside at this Convention, the Right Rev. M. L. Baldwin, Bishop of Huron, Mr. L. D. Wishard, the first College Young Men's Christian Association Secretary, Bishop Galloway, President Capen, of the American Board of Foreign Missions, Dr. and Mrs. F. Howard Taylor, of China, and many returned missionaries and secretaries of Foreign Mission Boards. Student Christian leaders of other lands will also participate.

As the citizens of Toronto will entertain the delegates to the number of 2,500, the only necessary cost of attendance will be the travelling expenses. Reduced rates have been granted by the railways. It is not expected that the majority of those attending will be prospective missionaries, but that the majority will be Christian students who are not volunteers.

The Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, which calls this Convention, is one of the most remarkable enterprises of students the world has seen. It was started in 1886 when at the first Northfield Student Conference a hundred students expressed their desire and purpose to become foreign missionaries. The call to missions was taken the following year by two Princeton students to the colleges of the country. Two years later the Movement was definitely organized. As a result of its work several thousand capable college men and women have been led to form the purpose to spend their lives on the mission field; 1,800 have already been sent out by the regular missionary boards,