

YOUNG PEOPLE'S

Forward Movement for Missions

DEPARTMENT.

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Origin of the Movement.

The origin of the Students' Missionary Campaign is sacred. It can be traced to small prayer-meetings and the secret closets, but who would dare say that the Lord told him first, or that he even first interpreted and obeyed the command? We believe that He who is called Wonderful, Counsellor, instructed all those who could and would help in this great work. In venturing to look back over the few steps which we have taken, we should not even pause in our forward march bearing the banner of love around the world.

Although many agencies and conditions have combined to make a Forward Movement for Missions possible, yet two comparatively new organizations seem to stand out as buttresses on which we have been able to build:

First, the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, which originated in 1886, and spread so rapidly from college to college throughout this continent. The missionary spirit was greatly quickened in our Canadian colleges, volunteer bands were formed, and many colleges undertook to send out one of their number to represent those who could not go to the regions beyond. Among these efforts was the organization of the Canadian Colleges' Mission, which, by uniting Trinity and Toronto Medical Colleges with Toronto University, undertook to support Dr. R. A. Hardy in Corea. Victoria University, Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, and Wesley College, Winnipeg, raised money to send out missionaries. Albert College, Belleville, undertook to support a missionary for three years. Many perplexing questions were raised by the energetic efforts of the students. The chief of these was the difficulty of controlling and directing. Hoping to unify and direct the efforts of this new force, the Intercollegiate Alliance was organized.

This organization, being interdenominational, could do little in the way of legislation. It, however, proved a great blessing in that it brought all denominations together to consider and discuss many phases of missionary work. It has knit together the missionary spirits of all those who have been privileged to attend the conventions, and has therefore done untold good. But the great questions, such as "What can a College Missionary Society do for Missions?" "Is it wise for each College to try to support one of its Graduates?" etc., could not be settled with satisfaction to all concerned, although they were discussed at conventions and in college halls. During these years from 1889 to 1894, while our college halls were thronged with missionary enthusiasts, the young people in our churches were organizing. The Christian Endeavor and Epworth League

came forward to fill a long-felt need. The Young People took up readily with Christian Endeavor or the Evangelistic Department. They had received training for their work in the prayer-meeting, fellowship meeting, and special services. The literary and debating societies had somewhat prepared the way for the Literary Department. The Social Department naturally followed in the path made by socials and entertainments. The Missionary Department of the Epworth League was very much needed but very hard to organize and sustain. Who could help organize this Epworth League Missionary Department better—and who would rejoice more in the opportunity to thus work for the extension of the Master's kingdom than the enthusiastic missionary student?

(To be Continued.)

Suggested Programme.

For February.

SUBJECT—The Indians of Our Dominion.

The Stranger within our Gates.

HYMN—185.

PRAYER—Subject for the Month.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES—Isaiah 40, 25-31. HYMN 51.

PAPER (10 minutes)—"On Our Work Among the Japanese and Chinese in British Columbia."

REFERENCES—The Missionary Report, page 35. Letter in January Outlook. W.M.S. Report, pages 78-83.

PAPER (5 minutes)—"On Religions of the Japanese and Chinese."

DISCUSSION. HYMN 233.

THE INDIANS OF OUR DOMINION—References, List of Indian books published.

PAPERS (5 minutes)—On "The Origin of the Indians," "Their Manners and Customs," "Where they Live in Our Dominion."

PAPER (10 minutes)—"On Our Work Among the Indians in British Columbia, North-West Territories and Ontario."

REFERENCES—The Missionary Outlook and the Missionary Reports (W.M.S. and General Society).

HYMN—375.

News from Kitamaat, B.C.

Rev. George H. Raley, our missionary at Kitamaat, who has been taken up for support by the Wingham District Epworth League, issues a printed letter quarterly. As the Indians at Kitamaat are only beginning to learn of Christ and His teachings, the paper telling of the work and its needs has appropriately been named Na-na-Kwa (*The Dawn*). The following extracts are interesting:

THE WHITE MAN.

A new era has been entered upon in the history of the Kitamaats. Hitherto the tribe has largely kept to itself and apart from the outside world. Now a number of white men are coming and going, government employees, surveyors, explorers, also civil engineers and prospectors. Thus far all have had a good influence. No word of complaint has been heard by us. The white men have respected the by-laws of the Indian Council,

and have regarded the customs of the people, and more than that they have attended when practicable the church services. We should be more than delighted if such a state of affairs should be in the future; then should we gain the benefits of civilization and happily be deprived of many evils which apparently follow in the wake of it. What is wanted now is a Christian colony for the Kitamaat Valley, men and women personally consecrated, who, while building up the country, clearing and tilling the land, will be living examples of practical Christianity to the natives.

A REQUEST FOR MEDICINE.

Considering the fact that the young man who wrote the following letter had but little advantage in the way of school, it is very good. This is verbatim, similar ones are not uncommon:

I am Crap river now.

Feb. 14 it 1897

My Dear

sir Mr. Raley at Kitamaat.

I want please sent, me mison (medicine) for me. Because I am got sick all time and my wife got sick to and my In law mother to get sick every time, my head sick and my heart sick and all my skin out side you sent me all sam Blood drink mison and all sam like my wife mison all sam you give him in Kitamaat that time he was sick like Black mison, and mison for that outside skin I am Crap River please sent me this river. I am yours

love Andrew Smith

WITCHCRAFT STILL PRACTISED.

"About two years ago," says the *Glenora News*, "an Indian boy was disembowelled near Telegraph Creek, as a sacrifice for having bewitched a member of his tribe. For some unexplained reason no official notice was taken of the crime. Lately, however, the magistrate at Telegraph was informed that another sacrifice was in contemplation. A boy, aged fourteen, was to be slaughtered for bewitching and causing the death of a girl." We have heard the matter was quietly and judiciously investigated by the missionary, with the gratifying result that the boy was saved from a most barbarous death; and placed in one of the "cities of refuge"—a home for Indian children.

From London District.

The London District Epworth League president writes: "It has been no trouble to pay our money every quarter as it has come due. Our Treasurer gave in her report that she had paid for our Chairman of the District \$225 per quarter thus far, and we are praying, planning, and therefore looking for greater results this year than last.

OUR PLAN OF WORK.

1. By getting all the information we can about the need of a missionary in our field.

2. By talking to the members about the field and its needs, and soliciting their interest as well as their mite.

3. Systematizing time, giving and prayer.

This District will try to have the Leagues incited by the officers this year, and we hope and pray that God's blessing may attend our work."