

THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONVENTION AT DES MOINES.

By Marion Pearce, McMaster University.

What a thrilling experience to find one's self a part of that great Convention of ten thousand students, gathered in the immense Coliseum in Des Moines, with one purpose—to hear the calls of the world to-day for leadership! The motto of the Convention, "The Evangelization of the World in This Generation," was flung on a banner across the Coliseum, where it caught the first glance of everyone who entered. Beneath it was the platform, which seated, at each session, five hundred returned missionaries, whose very presence there said, "How many of you will go back to the Mission fields with us? We need you so much." Behind them a map of the world covered the entire wall, and on this map tapes radiated from Des Moines to every Mission field to which Student Volunteers had gone.

That great feeling of the brotherhood of mankind, which permeated the whole Convention, was felt by none, probably, more keenly than by the Canadians. For before us in the Coliseum were seated the foreign delegates, representing forty different nations; behind us, California; to our right, Ohio, Missouri; to our left, West Virginia, South Carolina and Alabama. Canada was kept busy, before the sessions, answering greetings of "C—A—N—A—D—A! Canada!" from Ohio, Mississippi and other States. Even the Chinese delegates joined in, and every heart warmed to China when they arose in a body and called out, "China! China! China! America! America! America!"

This tumult of good-will and fellowship immediately subsided as Dr. John R. Mott arose to call to order the first session of the Convention, on Wednesday afternoon, December 31st. To those 10,000 students gathered to receive a new challenge, a fresh commission, his first words were, "We stand on the threshold of the greatest opportunity that the students of North America have ever faced. We are here to catch the vision of a new world, an exhausted and overwrought world, a worn and embittered world, but a world that is plastic in a sense never before known, for it is humbled and expectant. The most oppressed and discouraged people are looking for better things. What is the challenge that Christ is bringing to us? It is a call to us to lend ourselves to a sense of leadership as Christ taught—to become servants of all. He wants trained Christian students in national and international politics; others as investigators and writers to put down the thought of our day in such a way that all may understand. He wants some as professors and teachers, others to become ministers of religion and missionaries in every part of the world. He wants us to be builders in the building up of the new world and in the making of the new order."

Following Dr. Mott, Dr. Robert E. Speer gave us a wonderful address on "The Imminence of God and the Mediacy of His Working." "One of the chief dangers in the Convention and in the world," he said, "is that we shall not think courageously enough of God. Men are needed who will think boldly and trustfully of God, and then go out in adventure for Him." At the evening session the principal speaker was Dr. Sherwood Eddy, who carried us with him to various "mountain-tops of vision," around the whole world, from which we viewed the plains of need below, where Christian workers are needed at once. That was just one day of the Convention; and there were four more such days, each one still more inspiring than the one that went before.

On Saturday morning, January 3rd, we received direct appeals for help from Japan, Africa, Mexico, India, and China, through their own native representatives, who called upon us to come over and help their countrymen. The Hindu speaker said, "You came to India when we did not want you. Now we call for you. Won't you come?"

Mr. James Yan, the President of the Chinese Student Federation, gave us the ultimatum. "It is for you Christian men and women to determine whether the