

Missionary World.

HOW A COUNTRY CHURCH DOUBLED ITS OFFERING.

As last year our Foreign Mission Committee had a considerable deficit, and this year money will be needed to make up this deficit and besides to meet all ordinary expenses, the following contribution to the "Church at Home and Abroad," by the pastor of the Thompsonville Church, Connecticut, may prove useful, if acted upon, in raising our foreign mission contributions this year.—[ED.]

Our village had felt the hard times. The great mills, the main industry of the place, had been run on half time a full year, with frequent shut downs. Wages had been reduced fifteen per cent. The General Assembly, however, had asked the churches to increase the gifts to Foreign Missions twenty-five per cent., and we knew there was urgent reason for giving.

The second Sabbath in December is our foreign mission day. Last year we raised \$154. This year, when the offering was counted, we found it amounted to \$307, almost exactly double the amount of last year. How was it done? Our plan was as follows:

1. Distribution of literature. The Board sent us leaflets (three sets) and envelopes. Two weeks before the taking of the offering one set was distributed through the pews. Others were handed the people as they passed from prayer meeting. The children had stories, the older folks facts, and some particularly strong arguments were put where they would do the most good.

2. A prayer meeting was devoted entirely to the subject. It was a good service. Persons were seen and urged to attend. The room was full. A new map spoke eloquently of the world's spiritual destitution. Our best talkers presented phases of the work. A choir of young people sang special selections and touched our hearts. Prayer was unusually fervent. The meeting had to be extended beyond the hour.

3. The Missionary Committee of the Endeavor Society held a meeting to arrange for an Endeavor offering. Specially prepared envelopes were distributed two weeks before the day of offering, and members were urged to drop in a piece of money every day. This meeting was largely one of prayer, and as they knelt before God a blessing came upon them.

4. An all-day offering, morning, afternoon and night. As the collection for foreign missions comes before us but once a year, we do not believe in crowding it into one hour. We offer the people a chance to give more than once. We let them see the session is in earnest. We aim to get *all we can*.

5. An offering from all organizations—church, Sabbath-school, Y.P.S.O.E., Junior Endeavor and Pansy Band. The gifts of the Women's Board are separate. The amount was put on the blackboard of the Sabbath-school once during the day and announced from the pulpit, so the people could know how the offering was going.

6. The high-water mark reached was not without sacrifices. One young man a mill under-foreman, made a sacrifice of a prospective pleasure upon which his heart had been set, and literally gave all that he had. One member gave a much larger sum than usual in memory of a deceased sister.

So glad is the church over the thing which God has put it into their hearts to do, that they look forward to the time when they will go still higher.

Results: (1) Blessedness: 1 Chron. 29: 13, 14; (2) Blessing: Matt. 3: 10.

In San Luis Potosi, Mexico, a most difficult field for Protestant work, two colporteurs of the American Bible Society recently sold one day fifty Bibles, Testaments and portions in two streets of the city.

NOTES.

The English Baptists have now planted a station within ten miles of Stanley Falls on the Upper Congo.

After four years' labor the North African mission of the Baptist Church has received its first convert in Egypt.

The increase of Protestant Christians in China every year is about 5,000, and the present number is above 70,000.

The Uganda mission of Central Africa is less than twenty years old, and in its earlier years passed through hottest fires of persecution. Last year the number of converts received was 2,921.

Three new translations of the Bible are in progress in India, respectively into the Hindi, Hindustani and Panjabi languages. The Bible has been translated wholly into fifteen India languages, and partly into forty-six more.

The nurses' training school at Kyoto, which now passes wholly into the hands of the Japanese, has proved an efficient evangelizing agency. There have been sent out seventy-five nurses, only one of whom has graduated without being a professing Christian.

"Die, but don't deny the Lord," said a mother in Oorfa to her two sons during the massacre in that city, while men with drawn swords, ready to cut them down, demanded that they should accept the Moslem faith. They were firm, and were immediately slain.

In Great Britain and Ireland there are twelve women's missionary societies, supporting 770 female workers in foreign fields, 38 of these being medical workers. These societies reach 20 different countries, employ 2,000 native workers, and have over 60,000 girls and women in their schools.

The report of the mission among the higher classes in China, Rev. Gilbert Reid, Pekin, director, shows considerable progress. The work differs from any other being done in China, and its opportunities are fast increasing, many of the leading officials in Pekin having shown themselves friendly to it.

The Woman's Occidental Board of Foreign Missions reports excellent work being done among the Chinese women and girls of San Francisco and other cities of the Pacific coast. Many of these girls return to China with a knowledge of and hope in a better life. The house-to-house work has resulted in the conversion of many women.

The spirit of missions is the spirit of sympathy, of self-denial and of service, which is only another way of saying that it is the Spirit of Christ. The church must have the spirit of missions if it would be His church. The church, which is His body, must be a living organism, not a withered, lifeless trunk. It can maintain its life only by seeking to extend it into the lifeless world.—T. C. Smith, D.D., in *Herald and Presbyterian*.

The Rev. Dr. Scott, after a long life of service as a Christian missionary in India, reviews in the *Baptist Missionary Herald* the present condition of that country. In his opinion the outlook was never so favorable as now, for these reasons: Caste is breaking down; the poor are coming up; the people are broadening out; Christ is honored more; Christian missions are succeeding; the native church is taking hold; all feel it is worth the effort.

Medicine opened Korea to missionary work and has occupied a most important place ever since. Schools closely followed and held the respect and the endorsement of the people. There are at the present time the following missions at work in Korea: Presbyterian, North, twenty; Presbyterian, South, eleven; Australian Presbyterian, four; Baptist, A. T. Gordon's Church, five; Methodist, twenty-four; Anglican twelve; Independent, four—total eighty.

Young People's Societies.

CONDUCTED BY A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE.

A CANADIAN GIRL'S LETTER

Mrs. Dr. S. E. Clark's challenge in the *Golden Rule*—"How is it girls? Do you prefer young men that are a little fast?" has brought back a whole bevy of letters. This one is from a solid Canadian girl:—

"Dear Mrs. Clark: You ask if we girls prefer 'fast young men.' Now I am one of the girls who does not prefer them; however, I am just turned thirty, and no doubt some would call me an 'old maid,' though I do not feel like one by any means. When I became a Christian,—and that was when I was about eighteen years old,—I resolved to marry only a Christian.

"The 'good' young men I have known are few and far between. I live in a small town where most of the young men are 'fast.' I am told that I shall never be married because I do not attend dance parties, etc., but I consider I am better single than married to one not a Christian. I know there are good men in the world. If such a one does not see fit to fall in love with me, I am content to remain single the remainder of my life, believing it is God's will, and trusting I may spend and be spent in his service.—D. S. M."

THE TABLES TURNED

"Dear Dr. Clark: I see that Mrs. Clark has many answers from young ladies, who all most solemnly assure her that they have no regard for fast young men, and wish to have nothing to do with them. Now I think it is fair to turn the question around, and ask why it is that many young men that profess to be Christians give Christian girls the go-by, and dangle around flighty, flirtatious damsels, 'summer girls,' 'rock maidens,' and all that class.

"These may not be bad girls, but they certainly do not give promise of being future helpmeets to an earnest young man. With many of these young men a pretty face, without any character behind it, or a 'fetching' ringlet, or even a smart gown, seem to count for more than character and common sense and good health and all the cardinal virtues.

"Now do not think from this letter that I am 'a sour old maid.' I have just turned twenty-three, and have not had any serious heart affairs; but I cannot help keeping my eyes open, and I see what I see. Your friend, J. R. P."

THE TWO WATER BARRELS

The other day I noticed two water barrels. One was set under a spout which led from the troughs that ran along the eaves of a house. The other was set under a spout which led from a spring up on the side of a neighboring hill. The one was filled by fits and starts; it was sometimes empty, and sometimes full to overflowing. The other was filled by the steady flow of a small stream; it was never empty, and never too full. Most church treasuries are like the former, with the exception that they are seldom full to overflowing; the money that does happen to come into them comes by fits and starts. All church treasuries should be like the latter; filled by the steady flow of systematic giving. Then they would never be empty, there would be plenty and peace for all.—Rev. W. Shearer, in *Endeavor Herald*.

"In running your engine along the busy highway of life do not keep your hand on the lever that applies the air-brakes; your friends and your enemies will attend to that; keep your hand on the lever that applies the power," said a speaker. The air-brakes check the wheels. Checks and hindrances enough there will be, must be, without our magnifying them by our apprehension and lack of faith. Friends will bid us pause for pleasure. Enemies will tell us that our work is useless, and that we may as well stop. Our own doubts and fears will often lay their hands on the brakes. But the "lever that applies the power" is a reasonable purpose and trust in God.—Forward.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE.

REV. W. S. M'AVISH, B.D., DESERON, O.

Sept. 6.—Deut. vi: 1-9.

If we say that much of the Bible reading of this age counts for little, we think the statement will not be disputed. This is not the fault of the Bible, but of the reader. To get the best results in anything we must use it as the author or designer intended it should be used; and if we would enjoy satisfactory results from our study of the Bible, we must make a proper use of it. Some read the Bible as an antiquarian looks around an old curiosity shop—to find odd things. Others read it as the soldier would inspect an armory—to provide himself with ammunition with which to vanquish an enemy. Every inspired word is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness; but it must be used as the Holy Spirit designed it should be, else it will not be profitable.

When we sit down to study the Bible, let us hold fast the conviction that it is God's truth. God's Word unchanged has ever stood. More firmly than a rock this truth shall stand. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word," says Christ, "shall not pass away." The king of Israel ran his penknife through the copy which he had in his hands, and many of the enemies of God and His Church have been trying to run penknives through His Word ever since, and to throw it into the fire; but it has come down to us uninjured by the knife of the critic or the fire of the persecutor.

We cannot make the most of the Bible unless we remember that it was written for our instruction and admonition. If, when we open our Bibles, we have the impression that this injunction was meant for one, and that for another who lived three thousand years ago, that this exhortation was intended for a man in Jerusalem, and that for another in Egypt, we shall derive but little benefit from our study. We should bear in mind that the things which were written aforetime were written for our learning and that the incidents recorded in the Bible were given as examples for the proper ordering of our own walk and conversation. In the same connection, let us not forget that the Word was intended to meet the needs of the soul. Are we young believers? Then it is the sincere milk (1 Pet. ii, 2). Are we more advanced Christians? Then it is strong meat. Are we in darkness? It enlightens. Are we in need of instruction? It builds up, or instructs (Acts xx: 32). Are we in perplexity? It is intended to be our guide. Are we cast down? It comforts. Are we in need of sanctification? It sanctifies (John xvii: 17).

Again we should bear in mind that we must have spiritual illumination before we can derive much benefit from the study of God's holy oracles. The same Spirit who inspired the sacred penman to write the Word must enable us to understand it, else our study will be in vain. No learning, however great, no equipment, however complete, will compensate for the lack of this illumination by the Spirit. The Spirit must breathe upon the Word before its truths are revealed.

We shall find it a distinct advantage to memorize select portions of the Bible. The recollection will be strengthened; a better command of our English language will be obtained; we shall have something substantial upon which to meditate when we are alone; we shall be better prepared to meet temptation, and also unsonnd views of religion; above all, we shall be better equipped as Christian workers for our prayers will be enriched and our ability to teach will be enhanced by the memorizing of the choicest portions of the Bible.

Finally, we should practise what we know. "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James i: 22). Christ likened the man who heard the Word but did not reduce it to practice in his life, to a man who built his house upon the sand. But the man who not only heard but practised was likened by Him to the wise man who built his house upon the rock. Better for us if we never saw a Bible.