

week, must necessarily exclude incident and description. The devotional hour from nine to ten o'clock of each morning eludes language. The illumination was of that light which never was "on sea or shore." The general features of the suggested syllabus of the meetings were, however, mainly followed. "The Dependence of Missions on the Holy Ghost" was the topic of the prayer-hour for the first day. "The Relation of Prayer to Missions and Missionaries," which was the theme of one hour, brought out touching and tender instances of special answers to prayer, in the providential help, guidance, deliverance and support in missionary work. Perhaps of this series of devotional meetings, the two which stand out most prominently are the Consecration Meeting of Sunday morning and that of which the theme was "The Personal Realization of the Word of God in Missionary Experience and Observation." We would have to write a serial if we attempted a reproduction of the marvelous statements of this session alone.

Many members, accustomed to attend these meetings, sent communications and salutations. That of the Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, D.D., we publish herewith, because it contains statements of general interest.

Members of the Union are on almost every foreign mission field, in active service, and these constitute what is termed an "Outlook Committee" to report on special developments in mission work, or in the political, civil, or religious world, coming under their notice, which affect the interests of missions. Several members of this Outlook Committee sent reports of interest. We append a letter from Rev. Dr. Shedd of Persia, and another from Rev. T. J. Porter of Brazil, and will publish others later.

It has been thought well to give some plan, not only to each annual meeting, but to the series of annual meetings, with a view to continuity of presentation of some classes of sub-

jects. One of these is along the line of an historical survey of missionary labor. Last year Rev. James Mudge presented a paper on the "History and Present Status of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and Rev. Dr. George W. Wood was assigned to prepare this year a similar paper on the American Board. Though the paper was well-nigh ready he was detained by illness. Two other historical papers were, however, presented. The Rev. J. Taylor Hamilton, secretary of the Moravian Missionary Society, read an able paper on that society, which will appear in our columns hereafter. Rev. W. L. Whipple, D.D., agent of the American Bible Society in Persia, presented a paper, which he was detained from reading, entitled "A Review of the Past Ten Years of Bible Work in Persia—1880-90."

Another group of topics which came under review were classed under the title of "*The Mission Agent.*" The first phase of this was "The Call and Qualification of Missionaries." Rev. S. H. Kellogg, D.D., of Toronto, formerly of India, discussed "Educational Qualifications for Foreign Missions." Admitting that laymen may sometimes be employed with advantage in foreign missions, provided they are moved by the Holy Ghost to full consecration, he emphasized the paramount importance of a thorough training for the following reasons: 1. In order to master the language and speak accurately. After he had been in India a year, he preached a sermon, as he supposed, with power, but when he asked a learned native whether he had made his thoughts intelligible, he replied, "God in heaven knows what you meant, and if you will be so kind as to explain it to us perhaps we may understand it too." It takes skill, patience and labor to acquire a foreign tongue, and, other things being equal, the educated missionary who has acquired one or more languages at school should excel others in the acquisition