

## Foreign Missions.

## The March Offering for Foreign Missions.

The first Lord's day in March is the day suggested for an offering in every church for Foreign Missions. Many churches prefer another day. There is no objection to this provided the offering is made some day in the year. If the offering is made on the day suggested it is now high time that preparation was being made for it. If no preparation is made, the amount contributed by any congregation will be small. Special attention is invited to the following recommendations adopted by the Louisville Convention in 1889—

1. That there be one offering during the year.
2. That the time be the first Lord's day in March.
3. That the preacher and official board of each congregation decide, before the time, on the minimum amount that, in their judgment, such congregation ought to offer to the Lord.
4. That a careful canvass of the congregation be made for cash offerings, or subscriptions payable within thirty days.
5. That we make these recommendations, urging that there be full preparation of prayer and instruction before the offerings, and that the congregations rely no longer upon impromptu basket collections only.

The preacher and officers are asked to decide in advance the least, in their judgment, the congregation is willing to offer to the Lord. This means system. Hitherto the congregations gave as they felt disposed and were satisfied with the amount received, no matter how insignificant it was. The Society asks that a careful canvass of the congregation be made for cash offerings or subscription, payable within thirty days. An impromptu basket collection will not suffice. One preacher in Chicago tried this plan. The first man he asked gave him more than the whole congregation gave the year before. Hundreds of churches could double or quadruple their offerings if they would adopt this suggestion. And to all the Society urged that there be full preparation of prayer and instructions before the offerings. The work of missions is not a fad or a by-play; it is the chief work of the church. The whole congregation needs to be apprized of their duty. If these recommendations are heeded the offerings will be much larger than those of last year.

This year the Society asks for \$100,000. This is not too large a sum to ask from a people nearly a million strong. But let it be borne in mind that it is twice as much as was contributed last year. If this amount is to be raised hundreds of churches that gave nothing last year must give something this, and hundreds that gave something last year must double their offerings this. Any one who will take the pains to examine the receipts for the last year as given in the Annual Report will see that this can easily be done.

The last command of our risen Lord has not yet been obeyed. His followers have not gone into all the world and preached the gospel to the whole creation. Two-thirds of the race have never heard the glad tidings of great joy. How can they hear without the preacher? And how can men preach except they be sent? From every field the cry comes up for reinforcements. God has put it into our power to answer that earnest cry. May He give us grace and wisdom to do it.

A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec.  
Cincinnati, O. Box 750

## Official News from the Foreign Society.

The Executive Committee met in regular session January 17, 1891, in Room 55, Johnston Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Devotional exercises were conducted by P. T. Kilgour.

**FINANCES**—The receipts for the month amounted to \$2,862.05, the disbursements to \$4,686.29. It will be seen that the income is much less than the expenditure. At this season of the year no new financial obligations are incurred, except such as are absolutely necessary. Appropriations amounting to several thousands of dollars were asked for. While recognizing the reasonableness of the requests, the Committee was compelled to postpone action until the empty treasury is replenished.

**NOTES FROM THE FIELDS.—Turkey.**—G. N. Shishmanian writes: "Late in the season as it is, the cholera is still carrying away its victims in Mesopotamia, Syria and Cilicia. The newspapers show that, while the deaths are not so numerous as they were a few weeks ago, new places are attacked and communications are interrupted by the quarantine regulations. The difficulties caused by the Armenian uprising are not yet settled, and hundreds of Armenians are cast into prison on mere suspicion. The leading Armenians in this city presented an address to the Sultan, expressing their loyalty to him, and assuring him that they were not in sympathy with the insignificant band of secret societies. We were glad to have Consul General Z. T. Sweney back in his office once more. He was at our chapel last Lord's day and spoke to us a few words of cheer and encouragement, which were greatly appreciated. Our Sevastopol brethren are rejoicing at their success in having an abundant supply of running water on their lot. They have now 100 children in their school."

**India.**—Dr. O. S. Durand reports: "The work is progressing finely. I expect to open a dispensary in Iluda very soon, as soon as I can get an assistant. I am corresponding with some persons from among whom I think I can select a suitable man. I fully expect my medical work to pay its own way. A lady is coming at once from Australia to assist Miss Robinson. She is probably on the way now." This is a part of the result of the visit and labor of G. L. Wharton over one year ago. G. W. Jackson says: "Dr. Merrill has paid two visits here and treated some difficult cases. This gave me a long-sought opportunity to visit two important but distant native states, Lormi and Pandaria. The Doctor's visit placed us in a difficulty, for on hearing the patients were being treated here, quite a number of people have come. As the quickest way out of this difficulty we have asked the Doctor to come and stay here for the present. I fear she can not well be spared from Bilaspur. If she should come to stay for a time I shall take the chance of seeing Kawardha. In fact I hope to keep up a quarterly visit to these three places—Lormi, Pandaria, and Kawardha, so that the seed sown may be tended." A score of missionaries are needed in India.

**Japan.**—Miss Harrison asks for a young lady to assist in the work. "Please send some well educated, consecrated woman soon. It is a splendid opening to be associated with the flower of Japanese girlhood. A refined woman with good solid qualifications may be able to get for us some of the finest workers in Japan. Most of the girls speak English, but it would be better for the lady to come as soon as possible so as to learn something of

the customs and language before entering on the work. Do not fail to send some one."

**China.**—The missionaries in this field urge that one man may be sent out at once. This appeal is made in view of the pressing needs of the work at Wuhnsard, Shanghai. This mission is prospering and the missionaries wish to live up to their opportunities as nearly as they can. Their policy is to have two men within supporting distance of each other. James Ware writes: "We have abundant cause for thanksgiving to God for the way in which He has blessed our Shanghai work. One of the inquiries is a man whose whole family have embraced Catholicism. He was on the point of joining himself when he entered our hall, and heard for the first time the pure gospel. He became anxious to know what the word said as to his duty towards God. He was not long in finding out. Last night he said: 'Teacher, now I see the great wickedness of worshipping a sinful man like myself. The priest is himself a sinner; how then can he forgive my sins?' He will, no doubt, have to suffer a large amount of persecution for Christ's sake. So let us pray he may endure to the end." E. T. Williams writes: "I have the pleasure of reporting another baptism; that of a young man whom I baptized this morning. I trust that he may prove a very earnest Christian. My school teacher at Lulo wishes to become a Christian, he says. I hope he may prove sincere and realize his wishes. He is afraid to receive baptism over there. He has not courage enough yet for that. He is an old white haired scholar of good repute, and would be a power for good, but he does not want to face scorn and ridicule." Where conversion means social ostracism, and in many instances financial ruin, it is not strange that some should shrink back and refuse to confess with their mouths what they believe with their hearts. Under the preaching of our Lord, there were those who believed but would not confess lest they should be put out of the synagogue.

Every letter from the field contains an earnest appeal for more workers. In India there are three men, and they are several hundred miles apart. If any one of the three should be disabled, the work at that station would be arrested. Our Lord sent out men "two and two." Japan is as ready as India. This is the nick of time in Japan. One man now will do as much as ten men ten years from now. If modern skepticism is allowed to preempt and pre-occupy the ground, the work of evangelizing Japan will be rendered immeasurably more difficult than it is at present. In India, Japan and China, there are thousands of great and effectual doors open. God is calling upon us to enter in and to take possession in His name. These earnest appeals of the missionaries can not be answered unless the churches contribute more generously than they have ever done. The Society asks for a hundred thousand dollars this year. This is a mere pittance for a great people to raise for a great cause like this. We could raise a million, and then not give as the Lord has prospered us. It was once pleaded as an excuse for our small performances that we were poor. That excuse can be made no longer. We are not poor; we are strong and rich, the plea of poverty is a poor plea. The churches are asked to give an offering on the first Lord's day in March. The offering made on that day ought to aggregate not less than \$75,000. That is the least that a people nearly a million strong should give for the support of the work in the regions beyond. The growth in liberality ought to be by leaps and bounds and not by the slight and almost imperceptible advance of past years. A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec., P.O. Box 750 Cincinnati, O.

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