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The Student Volunteer Convention.

[We were not privileged to attend the recent convention in Cleveland; so we give our readers a brief report, which is taken from the *Helping Hand*. We hope soon to have the full printed report of these meetings, and will then be able to give a more extended account.]

Many of the readers of the *Helping Hand* have known of the great missionary movement in the colleges and seminaries of our land. There are now six thousand young men and women who have pledged themselves to go to the foreign field when they have finished their course of study. For the first time, they have held a general public meeting, and in Cleveland, Ohio, from Feb. 28 to March 1, the delegates gathered from one hundred and fifty-nine institutions of learning in the United States and Canada. From north and south, east and west they came, more than five hundred strong, and met in the Young Women's Christian Association Hall in the beautiful city of Cleveland. There were, also present missionaries from every quarter of the globe, and the secretaries of the leading mission Boards. From Thursday evening until near midnight on Sunday they met to discuss questions full of interest to the coming missionary; to listen to words from veterans who had seen years of service in foreign lands, and to learn from the secretaries the needs and requirements of the various societies.

It's impossible to report such meetings; we can only give, briefly, some of our impressions.

Had there not been a word said, just imagine the power of such an assembly! There was no excitement; these young men and women were not there from any sudden impulse. Days and nights of struggle and prayer had passed before some could say, "Here am I send me." There was settled purpose in their faces, and sound common sense and consecration in their utterances. There was a wealth of talent and ability in those hundred

of young lives given to the Master's service, to seek not their own glory, but the Father's.

There was no stronger appeal for missions than that which came from the immense maps which covered the walls. As the eye rested on the great black patches representing heathen lands, there seemed no further argument needed.

The morning sessions were devoted to discussion of various practical questions. During the afternoon sessions opportunity was given to secretaries and experienced workers to advise and suggest, and in the evening meetings we listened to such men as Gordon and Pierson, Wilder and Speere.

Saturday afternoon an hour was given to "Woman's Work," which was of special interest to the hundred girls, who represented one thousand girl volunteers. There was a little disappointment when only two girls responded to a call from the Secretary for representatives who hope to go out under the Woman's Foreign Baptist Missionary Society—a little disappointment and a very strong determination to try and reach more of the Christian girls in our colleges.

The prayer meetings at the beginning and end of each session, and the frequent phrases for silent prayer, were the key-note to the inspiration of the wonderful meetings. fervent, effectual prayer, brought the Spirit into our midst and lifted hearts to the throne. All regretted when the Sunday evening service came, for it was a service of farewell. Prayer and hymns and farewell words from the many who go the next year kept us until after eleven o'clock, and then, with the last tender words of farewell in our hearts, we sang softly and with bowed heads, "Nearer my God to Thee," and parted, feeling that we had indeed been very near, and that all through our lives would go the memory and inspiration of that blessed Volunteer Convention.

Do Our Foreign Missionaries Live in Luxury?

BY REV. E. G. PORTER, D.D.

The question has been raised by the critics. Let us meet it fairly, for there should be nothing to conceal, nothing to apologize for, in so great a work as the missionary enterprise to which the whole Christian church is committed by virtue of its character.

1. The mode of life and methods of work now generally adopted by our missionaries in foreign lands are the result of a long and varied experience. Seventy-five years ago no one could tell how they would live, nor how they would work. It was enough that the men themselves were consecrated and trustworthy men. They were charged to take the Bread of Life to the perishing, and, in so doing, they were guaranteed a support, just what kind of a support could not then be determined. The church was willing to do its part, whatever it might be, and its messengers were willing to embark upon their holy errand in the spirit of absolute faith. It was natural that in the preliminary stages some experiments would prove unwise, through excess of zeal or neglect of proper precautions. Precious lives were, no doubt, sacrificed by needless exposure to the tropical sun, by the want of suitable food, by the absence of sanitary arrangements, or by an uninterrupted nervous strain which the conditions of life in the East do not permit.

2. This costly but valuable experience has given us certain well-established data from which our Boards have