

would not be a great undertaking for a young person once a month to deliver a leaflet at each house in a small district. The work would require no special training, and no peculiar fitness except faithfulness and common courtesy. Boys, and girls too, could go on their wheels, and the bicycle would make it entirely feasible to reach the scattered homes of country districts.

The work need not be confined to the foreign population. The non-churchgoing class generally need to have the truth carried to them; and no doubt the effect on the foreigners would be better, if every house was included in the distribution, than if it was understood to be a special effort in behalf of a single class.

The value of the work would depend of course on the wisdom with which the literature was selected or prepared. Leaflets acquainting foreigners with the fundamental principles of our government, in as many languages as might be necessary, would be in order. The need of rudimentary instruction is illustrated by the case of the Italian who, after he had taken out his first naturalization papers, was in doubt whether this country was an empire or a kingdom. Other leaflets should explain the rights and duties involved in citizenship. An important service would be rendered by preparing a digest of the liquor, tobacco, gaming, and Sunday laws of the State; also of the laws specifying the duties of public officials, such as mayor, prosecuting attorney, the board of excise, the police, etc., of which citizens generally and sometimes even officials are surprisingly ignorant. The distribution of such leaflets would help to bring officials up to duty, to prevent the violation of law, and to strengthen public opinion as to its enforcement. If voters generally were thus instructed, it would be much easier to break the power of the political boss.

In like manner, wisely selected leaflets, teaching religious truth, Sabbath observance, temperance, and every other needed reform, might be put into every home. Such a sowing of wholesome truth in millions of families a dozen times a year could not fail to produce profound results.

Each pastor could work his own young people, and each church provide the necessary funds. If the printing were done on a large scale, the literature would be inexpensive. Of course some measure of cooperation among the churches would be essential.

If not from some higher motive, it would seem as if we might be compelled to undertake the work by some such method, in mere self-defense. But the preservation of our institutions and the uplifting of the immigrant population do not furnish the only motives for such an undertaking. Surely there is providential meaning in the fact that the representatives of all races and of all religions are sent to live among us. Last year 1,169 Japanese united with the Methodist churches of California. How much that fact means for Japan! What if thousands of Chinese were gathered into our churches every year;