

Victoria Missionary Conference.

Our readers will have read in the *Christian Guardian*, Jan. 24th, the report of the Missionary Convention held in Victoria University, January 19th to 21st. Although the attendance of Epworth Leaguers was not large, yet the London, Hamilton, Toronto, and Bay of Quinte Conferences were represented by leading Conference and District Epworth League Officers. The Victoria University Missionary Society feels the effort to associate the practical Epworthian and the more or less theoretical student, in the study of the missionary problem has indeed been a success.

The following are a few thoughts and suggestions resulting from the joint Conference for all workers to consider:

1. That the need in our whole Church is more earnest, honest, intense prayer for our missionaries, the native converts, and those still in darkness.

2. That pastors, students, Epworth Leaguers, and all who desire to hasten the day when all men shall know, love and serve our Saviour, should unite in an earnest effort to educate our people with regard to our missionary work, and insist upon planning for more prayer, more preaching, more reading, larger giving and more prompt remittance of contributions to the Mission Rooms, Toronto.

3. More missionaries of strong physical, mental and spiritual qualities are needed for our work. We should encourage those whom God calls to prepare thoroughly for the mission field, special preparation being necessary for the particular department in which the missionary undertakes to serve. God will answer our prayers, and in a few years many missionaries will be needed.

4. Our young people should be honest. They should not promise and then forget to fulfil. The givings of our young people have not as yet been large enough to tax them in the same way that any common business enterprise would do. When young people agree to do all they can to support a missionary, it has a business side to it, and should be looked at and planned for in a business way.

5. Contributions are acts of worship and should be given freely and not collected. It is as bad to forget to pay as it is to forget to pray. We would not like to have a committee appointed to watch us to see that we read our Bibles and prayed every day, yet if we were so childish that this was necessary, we should feel kindly toward such loving teachers or helpers, and should try to remember to pray, as well as to cultivate a prayerful spirit. Likewise the Epworth League Missionary Committee (which should always see that the work is done) and those who desire to support our missionaries, should strive to cultivate a habit of individual responsibility for the maintenance and success of their missionaries. Money should be paid promptly, and should be as much as the contributors can honestly give; it should be an act of loving worship representing thanksgiving to God and prayer for the extension of His kingdom.

6. Great care should be observed by Leagues, Districts and Conferences in selecting officers. Consecrated, capable, willing, earnest workers, only, should be appointed. As soon as they are appointed they should immediately study to advance the cause they represent. All members should pray and study as honestly and earnestly as if they knew that they would soon be requested to take responsible offices in the Missionary Department. They should stand by the present officers and help them as they would desire to be helped if they were in office.

7. There is great need for campaigners. The districts at the present time desiring a campaigner call for forty-eight months' work, the time of one man for four years. If this work is not done this year great loss of willing service on the part of our Leaguers will result.

8. Earnest spirit-filled men are needed. These men should do whatever organizing is necessary. They must be specially fitted with zeal for missions and be able to explain the different relations and departments of our work to our young people. They should teach, and show others how to teach, the history, geography and mathematics of our missionary work, and above all they must be men of God, who can impart by God's help the missionary spirit of Jesus Christ. They may be students, Leaguers, or ministers. (Apply to F. C. Stephenson, M.D., 568 Parliament Street, Toronto, for Campaigner's Outfit, Report Forms, etc.)

9. That efforts should be made to form a Volunteer Movement for Home Missions. It was shown that if all those who work on our domestic missions volunteered to "go back" instead of being "sent back" that a very different spirit would be developed. (a) The preacher or missionary would realize it a great privilege to labor in the field for which he has been praying. (b) The people would rejoice to have such willing self-sacrificing pastors and would rally around them. (c) The finances would be helped by economy in operating fields, and in some places by uniting circuits or churches so as to drop weak charges without shutting off Gospel privileges.

10. That the medical missionary's life is perhaps the most Christ-like of all the callings of the present day, and that the two greatest needs of the present day are healing for the sick and suffering bodies of men and healing for the sinner, perishing, lost souls who have no Saviour.

11. That one of the greatest privileges within easy reach of our Leaguers is the use of two concise little books, one on China and one on Japan, published by the Student Volunteer Movement, New York. The one on China is called "Dawn on the Hills of Tang"; the other, "Japan and its Regeneration." The books may be purchased from the Methodist Book Room, Toronto, for 35c. each. They contain up-to-date maps of the respective countries and contain more information regarding missions in China and Japan than can be purchased for four times the money in any other form. A sample copy of each, at least, should be in every Sunday School and Epworth League library; where possible classes should be formed to study these books. They are prepared especially for study-class work.

12. The possibility of holding missionary training conferences for Leaguers at the different summer resorts and district or circuit missionary picnics, for the study of methods of work and spreading of missionary information and enthusiasm. A committee was appointed to make enquiry as to the possible success of such an effort.

13. The Saturday evening meeting with missionaries, under the auspices of the Toronto Epworth League Union, addressed by Rev. G. H. Bailey, Dr. Arvidson, and Rev. L. Massicotte, proves that it is possible to hold an old time three hour missionary meeting. And the amounts subscribed at the missionary anniversaries held in the Sherbourne, Central, and Metropolitan churches, gave us good hope that the Missionary Fund this year will not fall behind, on account of the extra effort being made for the Thanksgiving Fund, as some had feared.

ACROSS will increase its missionary givings ten per cent. this year, in addition to raising \$1,000 for the Twentieth Century Fund.

Montreal Conference.

Fourth Convention held at Smith's Falls.

"It was a good convention," was the general remark made by the delegates as they left Smith's Falls, at the close of the Fourth Convention of the Montreal Conference League. The attendance was larger than at any conference convention since the one held at Brockville in 1896, nearly all parts of the Conference being represented. Great credit is due to the papers were practical and helpful, and in the round table conference, and discussions the delegates took part with unusual readiness. The welcome extended by the people of Smith's Falls was cordial. The Billeting Committee stated that "there was no trouble at all" in securing homes for those in attendance, which was provided freely to our fellowship.

Great credit is also due to Rev. S. G. Bland, B.A., pastor of the church, who, on account of the illness of the Secretary, had many of the details of the convention in charge.

At the opening session on Tuesday morning Rev. E. Crumley, B.A., gave a suggestive address on "Bible Study by Books," one of Paul's letters taken as an example. The subject was thoroughly discussed.

Rev. E. Thomas was very emphatic in expressing the opinion that the ministers should encourage and lead their young people in Bible study. They should be almost forced to take up this work.

Dr. Ryckman thought that many people read too much at a time, and thus go over the surface. There is much superficial reading that is worth little.

Rev. S. G. Bland felt satisfied that many were prevented from undertaking Bible study by books because they think it too difficult for them. As a matter of fact it is not so difficult as it seems. The Cambridge series of handbooks will be found exceedingly helpful.

Rev. D. Winter was of the opinion that the topical method of Bible study was rather scrappy. He thought it would be well for societies to take up a book of the Bible and go through with it.

DANGERS AND WEAKNESSES OF CHURCH LIFE was the theme of an able address by Rev. C. E. Hland, B.A., of Montreal. The following dangers were mentioned:

1. A tendency to extreme complexity of church organization. In so much activity there was a peril that there be a loss of the strength and stability that come from silence and communion.

2. A tendency to overlook the importance of the regeneration of the individual, in the efforts that are made for the re-organization of society.

3. The great weakness, however, is that of the inner life of the people. The Church is strong in its machinery, in its wealth, in its social influence. The culture of the inner spiritual life is more important than anything else.

THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

was given full attention at the afternoon session. Two very fine papers were read: on "Entertainments as Auxiliary to the Christian Endeavor Department," by Miss McElroy, of Carp; and on "The Work of the Social Committee," by Miss Franklin, of Lansdowne. Both papers urged that the social work be kept upon a high moral plane, and only such entertainments allowed as would be consistent with the object of the society.

MISSIONARY METHODS

were considered in a paper on "The Missionary Committee, its Duties and Responsibilities," by Miss Moxley, of Lansdowne. Rev. R. Emberson gave an earnest address