

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWS

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

By Rev. W. S. MacTavish, Ph.D.

When William Carey, the "Consecrated Cobbler," first proposed that a foreign mission be established, an old minister sternly said: "Sit down, young man, when God wants to convert the heathen He can do it without your help or mine." Only about 115 years have passed away since that remark was made, and how different the attitude of the churches toward missions now! Almost every branch of the Christian Church, and almost every society in the individual congregation is now taking part in the great missionary propaganda. We have the Laymen's Missionary Movement for men, the W.F.M.S. and the W. H.M.S. for women, Mission Bands for children and never before did Sabbath Schools and Y. P. Societies devote so much attention to world-wide evangelization. This augurs well for the future. An able writer has recently said, "If for twenty or even for fifteen years the young people of Christendom could be interested and properly instructed in missions, the whole Church would be filled with a missionary spirit." We have not yet reached the ideal, but we are working toward it.

What part can the young people take in this great missionary movement? They can do four things:—

1. They can study missions. Why should this study be prosecuted? The following reasons might be given: (1) Mission study enlarges our circle of knowledge. (2) It broadens the sympathies. (3) It enables us to see that the heroic age is not altogether in the past. (4) It increases our faith in prayer. (5) It enables us to understand better certain portions of the Bible. (6) It increases our faith in God and in the power of the Gospel to help and save mankind.

(For a fuller discussion of the subject of mission study see the Presbyterian Y. P. Manual for 1908, pp. 2 and 3; Reapers in Many Fields, pp. 9-16; the Mission Study Class Manual issued by the Young People's Missionary Movement, of N. Y.)

2. Young people can pray for missions. What should they ask for? That the Church at home may realize her duty to the heathen world; that God would raise up additional workers; that missionaries might be encouraged; that their labors might be crowned with abundant success; that the heathen in large numbers might turn to the Lord; that new converts might remain steadfast; that native workers might be endowed with power through the Holy Spirit, and that the world generally might come to realize the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. If the world is to be evangelized soon it will certainly be necessary for more Christians to give themselves to the ministry of intercession. Some one has truly said, "Every forward movement, if we could get at the facts, would be traceable to secret places where we should find some Paul, or Zinzendorf, or Carey or George Muller, or Hudson Taylor giving himself to prayer." (For additional suggestions on this subject see "The Key to the Missionary Problem," by Andrew Murray, pp. 170-187, and "The Pastor and Modern Missions," by John R. Mott, pp. 191-212.

3. Young people can give to missions. What proportion of our income should be given to religious and benevolent work? Under the Old Dispensation a tithe at least was given, and surely un-

der the Gospel Dispensation we should not think of giving less. What proportion of the tithe should go to missions? Would it be unreasonable to expect that one-half should go in that direction? When we remember that the one great duty which Christ laid upon the Church was to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, it is probably not unreasonable that one-half of her income should be devoted to that object.

(On the subject of the tithe see a pamphlet by Thomas Kane, entitled, "What we owe and how to pay it." A copy may be had free by applying to Mr. Kane, 310 Ashland avenue, Chicago. On giving to missions see a leaflet by Rev. A. Gandier, on "A Larger Church Policy." Copies may be had by applying to Rev. Dr. Somerville, Toronto.)

4. Some of the young people may go out as missionaries. Every young person should ask himself this question: How can I invest my life so that it shall tell most effectively for God and for humanity? It may not be true to say that the best sphere is the mission field, but it is true to say that there is none greater or better. The foreign field to-day furnishes scope for very many and very varied talents. Usually we speak of four branches of mission work, namely, the educational, evangelistic, medical and educational. But the educational, for example, may embrace many kinds of work, such as kindergarten work, primary work, more advanced work, work in colleges, industrial work, the instruction of the blind, the deaf and dumb. In China there are many openings for those qualified for Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A. work. Almost every talent which a young man or woman may possess can be profitably utilized in the mission field, and it is extremely desirable that young people who are considering where their life work should lie, should give due consideration to the claims and needs of the mission field. (On different forms of work see "Introduction to the Study of Foreign Missions, by Lawrence, pp. 58-84, also "The Uplift of China by Dr. Smith, pp. 157-178.) The subject of young people and their relation to mission work is admirably discussed in a little book of 99 pages, written by John Franklin Goucher, and published by Eaton and Mains, New York.

The World To-day (Chicago), for January, is a bright, interesting number, which deals in a sane fashion with living issues. It deals with our many-sided modern life, and is especially interested in social experiments or movements which made for the cleansing of politics and the uplifting of commercial and social life. For example, we are told in this issue of a place where a juvenile police force has been organized to keep in order the youngsters of "Hooligan" tendencies. Art and Literature also come in for a fair share of attention. This month we have an illustrated article on Philip L. Hale, artist and critic; and a lively essay on "Breaking into Literature." This magazine has always maintained a high standard in the character of its illustrations, and it is in every respect a wholesome journal for the household; if all our importations from the other side of the boundary were of this class there would be no cause of complaint.

There is in man a higher than love of happiness; he can do without happiness, and instead thereof find blessedness.—Thomas Carlyle.

GRAND TRUNK ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF GENEROUS PENSION FUND FOR EMPLOYEES.

A splendid Christmas box was handed out to its men last week by the Grand Trunk, in the shape of announcement of the details of its new pension system, which is of a most generous nature. The pension fund will be entirely contributed by the company, the men not being assessed one cent for its maintenance or administration. It will affect every member of the staff from Charles M. Hays down to the humblest section man, while provision is also made for men incapacitated by accident or otherwise, or even men discharged without cause, and otherwise eligible under the pension rules.

The establishment of this pension system was approved at the last annual meeting of the shareholders, when the handsome sum of \$200,000 was voted as a nucleus. In addition to the income from this sum, however, it is estimated that the company will have to supplement this by a large sum, varying from \$70,000 to \$75,000 a year.

It was stated at Grand Trunk headquarters yesterday that it is now proposed to make the operation of the pension fund effective on and after January 1, 1908, when the rules will be published to all the 35,000 or more employees on the rolls of the railway. Unlike the pension funds which have been established by some of the other large railways of this continent (of which there are not a few), the rules of the Grand Trunk pension fund will apply from the highest to the lowest of the staff from the general manager himself down to the humblest section man or gate keeper. They require absolutely the retirement from active service of every officer or employee when attaining the age of 65, and if he has entered the service before the age of 50 years, and has served for a period of 15 years, or more, he is entitled with the approval of the pension fund committee to an annuity of 1 per cent. of the average annual salary paid for ten continuous years, for each year of uninterrupted employment, the basis of calculation being the same as that practically universal on this continent.

Thus if a man has served say 30 years, receiving an average of \$1,000 per annum (\$83.33 per month) on the pay rolls of the company for the last ten years—or for any period of ten years during his term of service—he would be entitled to 1 per cent. of \$1,000, \$10x30 years, or \$300 per annum, equal to \$25 per month.

The company, however have made a provision that irrespective of rate of pay or service, the minimum allowance to be paid under any circumstances will be \$200 per annum, and this without any counterbalancing maximum.

Another distinguishing feature is that whilst nearly all other companies base their pension on the average wage rate of the last ten years of service, the allowance from this fund will be on the highest average rate of wages for any ten consecutive years of continuous service. The most satisfactory rule, however, from the employee's standpoint will be one providing that any employee over 50 years of age, after fifteen years of service, if discharged without cause, at any time previous to reaching the pension age limit, becomes eligible to pension in proportion to the number of years of service up to date of discharge.