

Century Fund and Foreign Missions.

BY REV. DR. ROBERT CAMPBELL.

In this the home-stretch of the Century Fund effort, will you allow me to remind your readers of what success means to the Foreign Mission work of our church. It is not pleasant to be solicited for contributions, especially when calls come often and funds are scarce. Yet the knowledge that great interests are being promoted, makes sacrifice easier. Our Foreign Missions will be benefited in the three following respects:

1. There is to be a Rest Fund of \$50,000.00 so as to carry the work over from year to year without paying interest for loans from the banks. If congregations sent in their contributions regularly from month to month, these loans would not be necessary, but as the bulk of the funds come in during the last months of the financial year, it is necessary to make loans to carry on the work, and that of course means an annual outlay for interest. That will be avoided if the Century fund is a success.

2. There is to be a Building Fund of \$50,000.00. This is very important. Buildings in India and China, cost about as much as they do in Canada. When out of the ordinary revenue, which is usually not more than enough to carry on the regular work of the Mission, a building is taken, it of course means embarrassment. For that reason we have been paying large rent, because we could not build, and sometimes it has been with extreme difficulty any kind of building could be secured by the missionary, and when got, was often unsanitary. As our staff grows, more buildings become necessary, and this proposed building fund will be of great value in that respect.

3. The third benefit is the indirect one, but not the least. Congregations have so far relieved themselves of debt, that their hands will be free to come to the help of the Lord in the enlargement of His kingdom. The room is unlimited. The doors are open. The calls are urgent and unceasing. We should not be less loyal to the call of the King of Kings than to the call of England's King.

Might I not add a fourth benefit? The church now knows what she can do when she tries, and in this work, this supreme and incomparable work—the world's evangelization—we should every year do our best.

Perth, Ont.

What a Child May Do.

BY REV. GEORGE M. ADAMS, D. D.

The little maid was sorry for her suffering master, though his servants had robbed her of her home and country. She spoke out her kind wish, though she had little thought how much good would come of it. She did what she could.

A child's voice can repeat the grandest words of heavenly hope.

A child's hand can carry a gift that will gladden a sad heart.

A child's love can give joy to a father's or mother's life.

A child's prayer may bring a blessing to some one ready to perish.

No life's endowment is too small to become a real blessing in this world.—J. R. Miller, D. D.

Our Young People

General Topic.—A Nameless Girl Heroine.

2 Kings 5: 1-4.

BY REV. WM. A. STEWART, M. A.

Among a crown of precious stones this little story is a gem—of purest ray serene. It may be that the heroism of the action is sometimes somewhat exaggerated; but under circumstances where hatred might have suggested enmity and prudence silence, there is such a spontaneous and delightful excess of common human love, love of country and love of God, that the story continues to charm when the cities taken by Naaman's prowess lie mouldering in the dust.

The weekly readings in connection with this topic are particularly happy and their study should be found singularly illustrative and helpful.

The first sets forth the *Nature of Courage*—what objects true courage will strive against—giants and giant evils.

The second instructs us *How to accomplish these ends*. Love finds a way. It always finds a way. It is the manner of love to find a way. It may be the way of Esther or the way of the woman who poured the precious ointment on the person of the Saviour, or the way of Abraham in the matter of his intended sacrifice of Isaac. The Spirit of such is always the same—the voice of God I shall obey, no doubt He will provide the sacrifice and the fire.

In the third and fourth readings we see that the way to true heroism is open for the young—even for little children. The lad gave the best of what he had—He gave all. If he had had more doubtless he would have given that too. Tithes or portions however large will not do—"My son give me thy heart."

In the last lesson there is supplied the *Encouragement*. Under the care of The Good Shepherd how safe are the sheep! If we believe in Providence at all must we not believe in a Providence that takes cognizance of the smaller affairs of life as well as of the larger?

My bark is wafted from the shore

By breath divine,

And on the helm there rests a hand

Other than time.—Faber.

L'Anable, 3rd May, 1901.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	May 13.—True courage.	1 Sam. 17: 38-47
Tues.,	" 14.—Love finds a way.	Esth. 5: 1-8; 7: 1-6
Wed.,	" 15.—Children helping.	John 6: 5-13
Thurs.,	" 16.—Bringing Juniors to Jesus.	Mark 10: 13-16
Fri.,	" 17.—Unnamed, but rewarded.	Matt. 10: 40-42
Sat.,	" 18.—Christ's word to His own.	Luke 12: 29-34; John 10: 1-5
Sun.,	" 19.—Topic. A nameless girl heroine.	2 Kings 5: 1-4. (A union meeting with the Juniors.)

Begin with small things. You cannot enter the presence of another human being without finding there more to do than you or I, or any soul, will ever learn to do perfectly before we die.—Charles Kingsley.

"Feed My Lambs" in the East To-day.

BY GHOSN-EL HOWIE.

She was sitting on a stone stool in the shade, in front of the flat-roofed stone house. At her right hand sat a boy about seven years of age, and just beside them was a cane basket full of green vine leaves; beside it a copper vessel containing a solution of salt, barley meal and water.

The happy lamb reclined, as it were, in front of the shepherdess, so that its head was over her right knee. The little boy takes the leaves out of the basket one by one, shakes them out, and folds them up, eight or ten together, dips them in the copper vessel, and, dripping, hands them as a tidbit to his mother, who dexterously puts them into the lamb's mouth, and keeps her left hand below its lower jaw, while her right remains a guard about its lips until it chews and swallows the mouthful. The little boy in the meantime is ready with the next sop, and so the work goes on for hours and hours.

Here on Mt. Lebanon, Syria, and in neighboring villages, every year, between August and November, we find thousands and thousands of such lambs and sheep fed and fattened in some such way as this. I have seen our immediate neighbors spending a large share of the night under the starry heaven, feeding their sheep with their own hands in this tedious way.

I have seen them trying to control every noise or movement likely to disturb or frighten their charge. Some of them even hoped that we would not use our pump at night, for its noise, they said, startled the sheep. Sometimes I have seen two persons, the one leading, the other following, a lamb to a creek, past our house, to give it a cool bath. Some scour every yard of neighboring terraces for leaves or choice tufts of grass. Some have to carry the water up a hill a mile or more to water their sheep to save them the inconvenience of walking to the water.

"We have missed you," said I (to the friend mentioned above), "from our meeting lately." "Oh, well," she said, "the (her husband) is away from home now, and the last words he spoke to us were, 'Do not neglect the lamb; feed it well.'"

The striking parallel between those who care for sheep, and Christ our Shepherd who cares for us, breaks down sadly when we find, as we invariably do, that the sheep so anxiously cared for have to yield up their life to sustain the life or augment the pleasures of their tenders. Such is not the fate of Christ's sheep.

"Feed my lambs," said he to Peter, "not that I may feast on them, but that they may feast with me, that they may have life, and have it abundantly and everlastingly."

If life must be yielded up, then Christ our shepherd himself becomes the Lamb, the Lamb of God, which beareth away the sin of the world, and his, not the life of his lambs, is sacrificed.

SHWEIR, MT. LEBANON, SYRIA.

Lord Strathcona will be chairman of the Canadian Young Men's Christian Association delegation to the jubilee convention of the association, which will be held in Boston on June 11th.