

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS.

[THE movement among college students in our day is so remarkable in its inception, progress and possible results, that we think it ought to be chronicled in these pages. We have put into competent hands the work of preparing from time to time a brief statement of new developments.—Ems.]

THE two leading features of the student movement at present are the steps, first, toward a better system and permanency in organization, and secondly, toward having each college send its representative to the foreign field.

At first a man was sought who should give his whole time as chief executive; afterward it was thought best to choose instead an executive committee of one representative from the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and the Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance respectively. The Y. M. C. A. was already represented in Mr. John R. Mott, College Secretary, one of the "Mt. Hermon Hundred." The other members will be chosen soon by the Northfield Committee, subject to the approval of the national Y. W. C. A. and the Inter-Seminary Alliance committees. Mr. R. P. Wilder, inseparably connected with this movement, consents to give one more year to develop and extend it by visitation among the students. He has already visited several institutions and conventions with rich results. There will be, too, a corresponding secretary and a press secretary of the movement.

The success of the Princeton college men last year in raising money to support a representative in the foreign field, and the prompt departure of Mr. Forman for India, stimulated like effort in the theological seminaries of Princeton, Union, Xenia, Rutgers, Allegheny, and the Virginia Protestant Episcopal Seminary in the United States, and Queen's, Wickliffe, University, and Knox colleges in Canada.

This year also Princeton College has raised \$938 for Mr. Forman, Princeton Seminary reports \$1,000, and Union has pledged \$747 for a foreign missionary, and voted an additional \$300 for a home missionary. Brown University has chosen a member of the Senior class who goes to the Congo valley next June, and already \$700 are subscribed toward his support. Hampden-Sidney, Va., has a fund of \$625; Lafayette, a total subscription for this year of \$737.68, and an aggregate for four years of \$2,157.08. Others are moving in the same direction, such as Boston, Wooster, Grove City, Drew and Oberlin. In some cases, as at Lafayette, funds are pledged for a succession of years.

The number of volunteers and the interest in the bands are also increasing. The total number of volunteers reported at Northfield last July was 2,600. The work of Messrs. Wilder, O'Brien, Stoops, and others increased that number to 2,900 in October, and on December 13th the total in the United States and Canada was 3,100.

This movement has been characterized as merely a "splendid burst of enthusiasm," an "excellent harvest of promises"; but the steady increase in numbers and practical interest, and the fact that, according to the reports of the Canadian and American Foreign Mission Boards, 103 have already gone to foreign fields, and 17 more are under appointment, prove God's hand in this uprising of student volunteers.

As yet, however, not one-half the colleges have been touched. Even those visited by Messrs. Forman and Wilder have two new classes. Each band must reach out to its sister colleges, and each volunteer to another man, and so help on this work so grandly begun.