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THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

THE McALL MISSION.

The following letter received by the Secretary of the Canadian McAll Auxiliary, giving an account of a visit by Rev. C. Greig, director of the Juvenile Department of the work, to Rochefort, one of the stations supported by Canada, has been kindly forwarded for publication:

Mr. McAll tells me that you would like to have some news about Rochefort. Our agent there, M. Dürrleman, always endeavours to turn to good account the few public holidays appointed by the French law, and to utilize the unwonted leisure of the people for a series of all day meetings. Two years ago I was present at such a gathering at La Rochelle on Whit-Monday, and I retained such a pleasant recollection of it that I asked leave of my colleagues to go down to Rochefort for those of Easter Monday. As my Paris work did not allow of my leaving before midnight I could not be present at the 9 a.m., prayer-meeting, at which some sixty or eighty were present, I was told, and where much close communion with God was enjoyed. This is usually followed by an experience meeting but they put it off till after my arrival, and as my train was three-quarters of an hour late it ultimately was not held at all, meanwhile a general collection was made of all the eatables brought by the different friends and then everyone fell to as though at a gigantic picnic. Puerile though this detail of dining in common may appear to some there is no question but that it promotes a healthy spirit of mutual helpfulness and love, which shows its effects later on in the day. The majority present were of the working class, skilled workmen from the arsenal with their wives or mothers, there were a few sailors, a sprinkling of peasants or peasant proprietors, some shopkeepers and three or four representatives of the old Protestant families of the Saint Orge, conspicuous among the last the worthy archivist of the department, M. Richemond. You perhaps know that our hall at Rochefort is situated at the extremity of the garden of the house where our agent lives and can only be approached by a long passage running right through the house. The inconvenience to which Madame Dürrleman is thus exposed can readily be imagined, but her indefatigable patience and activity produces order and even comfort out of all and she refuses to move unless the mission can get another hall superior to the present one. I found in the little dining-room our agent from the neighbouring town of Saintes, M. Bisson, and after hastily swallowing a cup of delicious black coffee, I passed with him into the hall where the turn had come for the children. Two years ago barely twenty-five children could be gathered on Thursday in our hall (the pastor has asked us to forego opening a Sunday school, thinking erroneously that it would hurt his) and I found our agent in some need of encouragement; now there are some ninety on the books, and though civic amusements and one thing or another lowered the number present this Easter Monday the average attendance is at least sixty. I venture to draw your attention very specially to this fact, not only because I take personally and officially a peculiar interest in children's work, but because this success among the young proves to my mind very distinctly that M. Dürrleman is labouring in the might of the Lord Himself. He has no special gifts as a speaker to children, very few of the adult attendants, a curious fact, have children to send to Sunday school, the hall from its position can offer no attraction to the stray wanderers in the streets, but he so spoke to the hearts of the few children he first got, so prayed for them and so got them to feel that it was God's message he was bringing to them that they went in search of their comrades of their own accord and fetched them to the hall that they too might hear the good news of Salvation. Those present that Monday answered my questions very readily after the first few moments of awkwardness were past, quoted verses of the Bible with a readiness I could not value exactly, not knowing how long the individual child had been under instruction, but which certainly was pleasant to hear and greatly pleased the parents and others who filled the Salle. Several hymns, sung with spirit, and accompanied on the organ by a young lady (a music teacher who voluntarily gave up one of her few holidays to be present at our meetings), separated the addresses, and at the close a distribution of cakes and buns in no way diminished the

satisfaction of the juvenile audience. After a short interval we gathered together again to discuss the subject of conversion, its nature and consequences, introduced by M. de Richemond the Archivist of the Charente Inférieure of whom I have already spoken. A deep impression was produced, some of the remarks made by the visitors being singularly appropriate (our agent told afterwards) to the cases of some over whom he was watching. In the evening yet another meeting, at which many, whom family duties or other hindrances had kept from us till now, eagerly took their place, with an air of relief and of assured expectation very stimulating to the speakers. Among them I was glad to recognize a workman from the Arsenal with whom I had had a good deal of conversation on the occasion of my previous visit. Shortly after his conversion he had met with a severe accident, which threatened to disable him for life, and which his relatives and comrades represented as either a judgment on him for abandoning the old Church, or a proof that there was no God watching over his people. His faith stood the test triumphantly, and his recovery was sufficiently remarkable to bring him into prominence in a way that I feared would be hurtful to his soul's growth. But the Lord had cared for His own, and had granted His spiritual guide such wise caution in dealing with him that I detected nothing of the pretentiousness I feared, only a greater firmness and clearness of conviction. The country contingent had to leave before the close of the réunion d'appel, as the railway companies have not yet begun to run special trains in connection with the McAll meetings, but they left us with such manifest reluctance that we who stayed felt stirred to use to good purpose the privilege accorded to us, and a great seriousness was manifested among all the hearers deepened by some spiritual conversation held as the people slowly dispersed. I was the guest, that night and the following morning, of the leading banker of Rochefort, whose aged mother is visited regularly at her special request by M. Dürrleman. From them I learned what I knew otherwise how highly our devoted agent is esteemed throughout the whole department and how much good his life does even where he cannot reach. But my letter is already too long or I should have sketched for you some of those who owe to him to have found their Saviour;—the engineer out at Saigon, the Jew commercial traveller, the sailor-boy, as full of pranks as a young monkey but sound at heart, who had tried hard for a whole month to throw off Christ and laugh with his comrades, but had ended by weeping, and coming back penitent to the Saviour. But this must suffice at least for the present. Yours in Christ,

CHARLES E. GREIG.

Director of the Juvenile Department of the Work.

WORK IN SHANGHAI—RENOUNCING CONFUCIUS.

"Our work is going on as usual," reports the Rev. W. Muirhead, of Shanghai. "Many are hearing the Word, especially at night in our mission chapel. I am greatly assisted by my old friend Dr. Edkins, who is doing good service, as used to be the case in olden time."

I went into the country for some days a short time ago, and had many opportunities of preaching alike in our stations and in the open air. How much I wish our itinerant work could be resumed, as in former days. Though the number of missionaries is greatly increased, there is still ample scope for this kind of service. Several Chinese have been baptized of late, after giving good evidence of faith in Christ. One is a B.A. of considerable standing, who has been coming and going for several months, and was received in the presence of a large miscellaneous congregation on a Sunday afternoon. It was no small trial to him, but he answered the questions I put to him in a most satisfactory manner. While continuing to be a scholar by profession, he openly renounced the great sage of China as his teacher and guide, and accepted Christ as his Saviour and Lord. These are seasons of great interest, and we have only to pray that they may come about far more frequently."—*London Missionary Chronicle*.

DR. HUNTER ON THE INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE IN LUNG DISEASES.

It is a common delusion among all classes of people to suppose change of climate will cure lung diseases. The rich act on this supposition

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D. LOTHROP COMPANY, Publishers, Boston.