

Our Contributors.

OUR MISSIONARIES.

That zealous and successful missionary of the early Church, St Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, urges them to be earnest and persevering in their supplications for all saints, and for him, that utterance might be given unto him, and that he might open his mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel. And as in St. Paul's heart there was the desire for the prayers of the people of God, so there is in the hearts of the missionaries of to-day. Their constant request is, "Pray for us." It is one of the ways, and not the least important, in which we can aid them, and at the same time receive benefit to our own souls.

But it seems to me that prayer for missionaries will be apt to degenerate into a mere form, an irksome and monotonous duty, unless we have some definite knowledge of them personally, or some idea of their manner of life, and of their surroundings. Does it not seem as if the duty broadened out until it includes the study of missions, so that we can think of, and pray for the workers intelligently? But all who have tried it know, that this study of missions, even though undertaken as a duty, soon resolves itself into a pleasure, which in time becomes really fascinating, so that in this case, "virtue is its own reward."

Of course, in the great missionary family, our missionaries—those who have gone from our own country, town, or even perhaps home, those whom we help to support, naturally occupy the first place in our hearts. Let us speak of some of them to-night, and refresh our memories as to a few facts in regard to them.

About fifteen years ago there went out from this country, to labor in Turkey, the Rev. Chas. H. Brooks and his wife. Many of us will remember seeing him, as he visited the churches before his departure. Mr. Brooks married Miss Wallace, whose brother was for some time pastor of the church in London, Ont. Their work has been in connection with the Constantinople Home, and Mr. Brooks also has charge of a Greek congregation in Pera, which is a suburb of Constantinople.

He has proved himself an indefatigable worker. Indeed he has almost broken himself down, and has more than once been under the necessity of going to England for rest and change. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks are supported by the American Board.

To this same station, Miss Emily McCallum, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McCallum, of Maxville, went out in 1883. She is supported by the Canadian Woman's Board of Missions, of Montreal (which perhaps I should explain, is composed of ladies belonging to Emmanuel, American Presbyterian, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian churches of that city), and they also furnished her outfit. Miss McCallum was afterwards transferred to Smyrna—the same city in which was the church that received the message of commendation and cheer from the Lord, as recorded by John in the Revelations, although the city has seen many vicissitudes since then. The girls' school in which Miss McCallum is a teacher, is now conducted in a new and commodious building where the work can be carried on with more comfort and efficiency than formerly. The teaching staff is none too large, and the time of each member of it is fully occupied. Miss McCallum has been ill of fever this year, but is at work again. She is hoping to visit her home next year. Rumor has it that she has out of her own private purse, aided by the Maxville Mission Band, supplied the funds for the education of a Greek boy and his sister—even denying herself many comforts to enable her to do so. These two scholars are both doing well, the girl teaching, the boy still studying, an earnest Christian, and looking forward to the ministry. This is Socrates of whom some of us remember to have heard. The life in Smyrna has not always been peaceful, the missionaries there have had some anxious hours in times of persecution, but just now they are enjoying peace and prosperity.

In Smyrna also, is Mr. McNaughton, a gentleman also from the neighborhood of Maxville, who though a Presbyterian by education, has gone out under the American Board, and is now, therefore, practically a Congregationalist. His work is more among the Turks. He is described as an active and enthusiastic worker—the right man for his position. He has recently married Miss Jillson, a teacher in the Smyrna Girl's school, and they