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WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House,

TORONTO.

C. W. COATES,  
2176 St. Catherine St.,  
Montreal, Que.

S. F. HUMPHIS,  
Meth. Book Room,  
Halifax, N.S.

## Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, APRIL, 1902

### The Student Volunteer Convention.

THIS was, we believe, the greatest missionary gathering ever held. It was an inspiring sight to see nearly 3,000 earnest young souls, representing the best life and brightest promise of the churches, gathered from all parts of the United States and Canada, to study the great missionary problem, the greatest problem of all the ages.

The welcome to Toronto was voiced by the Rev. Dr. Sweetman, representing the Anglican communion, the Rev. Dr. Caven, Principal of Knox College, who spoke for the Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Dr. Potts, representing the Methodist Church.

Mr. J. R. Mott, the secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement, is a very young looking man to have done so much good work. He is about thirty-three, but looks much younger. He has no special gifts of speech, is a plain, straightforward, common-sense Methodist, but his very

soul is on fire with missionary enthusiasm. He has the gift of leadership and organization, and speaks with intense conviction which produces conviction in all who hear him. His reply to the addresses of welcome was kind and cordial. The allusion to international amenities produced a hearty response. Draping the motto of the convention, "The evangelization of the world in this generation," with British and American flags, to whose union in world-wide missions frequent reference was made.

Mr. Mott reported the marked progress of the Student Volunteer Movement since the last convention. Eight hundred colleges, with over one hundred thousand students, had been reached, a whole missionary literature had been created, 325 classes for the scientific study of missions had been organized, 1,833 volunteers had gone out in the service of fifty missionary societies, and over 1,500 student missionary societies had been organized with 70,000 members.

The day sessions were largely given to the discussion of principles and practical methods, the evening sessions to concrete examples of missionary trials and triumphs. The reports of the missionary heroes from the high places of the field on the unevangelized millions were of a soul-stirring character.

The Rev. C. A. R. Janvier, who for fifteen years was engaged in mission work in India, spoke with intense energy on the difficulties encountered in that country—the domination of caste, the unspeakable ignorance and immorality of the people and their bitter religious fanaticism.

Dr. C. H. Underwood, who spent twenty years in Corea, spoke with burning eloquence on the changes in Corea during the last twenty years. It was then truly the hermit nation, but now it was wide open for the Gospel. The native Christians accepted the teachings of Christianity with a childlike simplicity. When in difficulty or danger they told it all to "Father," and left it with implicit trust in his hands.

The address of Willis D. Hotchkiss, the Quaker missionary in West Africa, stirred every heart. When he went to his mission four years ago he walked three hundred and fifty miles in thirty days. Now the journey can be made in a day. He had been attacked thirty times by African fever, he had been four times attacked by lions, he had lived fourteen months without seeing a piece of bread, and had eaten every kind of food from ants to