

the school in June the sum required for one year's salary was collected.

Are there any reasons why such a mode of giving should be recommended and encouraged? There are many. It may in truth be said, that had these students (who had not a surplus of spending money) not the desire to support a native preacher, in whom they now feel a personal interest, they would have given very little last spring to the General Fund for Missions. Thus the cause of God is helped, because a number are greatly interested in a specific work, for which they are pledged to pray daily. Wondrous things can be accomplished through systematic and earnest prayer and giving. The writer is pleased to state that in the Sunday morning meetings the students often lift up their hearts in prayer for the extension of God's kingdom, and especially for the work under the direction of Dr. Hart. It might be mentioned in this connection that the spirit of Christ and of true altruism is and must be contagious. There was in the Epworth League of the Stanstead Methodist Church an illustration of this spiritual contagion. In 1896 the League gave \$12.50 towards the general missionary fund; whereas in 1897 there was raised about \$22.50. This increase was due also to a great extent to the active interest which Mrs. Deacon, as convener of the Missionary Committee, took in her department.

So we see that a little kindling of the Spirit can bring about good and beneficial results. May this contagion spread itself beyond the bounds of Stanstead. Let the Leagues and colleges of our land emulate the example set by the young people of the Stanstead Wesleyan College; and to God will the glory be ascribed.

The National Y.M.C.A. and the Volunteer Movement in China.

BY JOHN R. MOTT.

I. *The College Y.M.C.A.* Although there had been no intercollegiate relations among the students of China, we were impressed by their responsiveness to the intercollegiate idea. They were deeply impressed by the messages of greeting which we conveyed to them from the students of other lands. In not a single institution did the students fail to favor the proposed plan of a national organization of their own. Accordingly, it was early decided to call a special conference to take steps toward the formation of such a national union.

This conference was held in Shanghai, November 3-5, at the close of our tour in China. Each Association was invited to send one delegate. Twenty-two out of the twenty-seven Associations did so. The conditions in China made it very desirable that the foundations of the national society should be laid by the leaders of the different colleges. It is an impressive fact that seventeen of the leading college presidents of the Empire left their work at the busiest season of the year and came to Shanghai, involving an expenditure of from five days to three weeks of time, in order to participate in launching this great work. We recall no movement which has been inaugurated under such favorable auspices. In addition to college presidents and other foreigners there were present several of the most influential Chinese Christian students and teachers.

The chairmanship of the conference was intrusted to me, and Mr. Lyon was elected secretary. The first day was devoted to thoroughly discussing and adopting a national

constitution. The next day was occupied in deciding Chinese terminology, in perfecting the permanent organization, and in determining several main points of policy to be followed by the movement. A strong national committee composed of fourteen men, one-half of whom are Chinese, was appointed. The executive of this committee includes some of the leading educationists of China. On the third day a special meeting was held with the National Committee, at which the policy of the coming year was outlined and discussed. It was decided to have a monthly paper devoted to the interests of the movement; to issue five pamphlet publications in English and three in Chinese; to hold a national convention, and also sectional conferences from time to time; to have Mr. Lyon, who has been sent out by the International Committee, serve also as general secretary of the National Committee; to have the movement strongly represented at the convention of the World's Student Christian Federation.

Bishop Moule of Mid China, Bishop Joyce of America, the college presidents and other voting and visiting delegates, made speeches of warmest commendation and expressed their convictions as to the providential character of this movement. The unity of spirit which characterized a body representing so many sections, so many different classes of opinion as to the conduct of educational missions, and so many denominations, was much commented upon. This new movement, which is called the College Young Men's Christian Association of China, will enable the Christian students of the Empire, for the first time, to know the strength of their numbers. It will make possible continuity and progression in their organized Christian work. It will enable each Association to profit by the experience of all the others. The strong will be able to help the weak. It will make possible communication with the great student world outside. The real significance of the movement is seen in the fact that old China is passing away; New China is coming on. The leaders of the New China are to-day being trained in those institutions which give the modern education. What shall that leadership be? This voluntary organization has been called into being to co-operate with the spiritual forces of educational missions in making that leadership truly Christian.

II. *The Chinese Volunteer Movement.* One of the most important developments of the tour in China was the extension of the Volunteer Movement to the students of the Empire. There are nearly two hundred members of the British and American Volunteer Movements in China, about five-sixths of whom come from the United States and Canada. We met personally one-half of the whole number. Conversations with them, as well as with other missionaries, led us to think that steps should be taken at once toward definite organization of the Movement among the Chinese students.

A committee of old volunteers was appointed at two of the conferences to take the initial steps. This committee appeared before the convention held for forming the College Young Men's Christian Association of China. That convention, by unanimous vote, made the Student Volunteer Movement an organic department of its work. It appointed a committee of nine American and British volunteers to facilitate the development of this department. Among the members of this committee are such former leaders of the home movements as B. L. Livingstone Learmonth, D. Willard Lyon and L. Herbert Roots. The members of the committee are scattered throughout the Empire.

We had two long sessions with this committee, going