

## SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Balances required for Miss Selman's passage	183 40
Special Grant for Village Schools.....	103 75

\$287 15

A. MOYLE, *Rec.-Sec.*


---

**THE RECENT ECUMENICAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.**

The Conference was the hugest, grandest meeting of the kind ever held,—a fitting crown of the century now closing, so distinguished in many other respects. Other events of world-wide importance will make notable this closing year of the century; but no single assemblage of the year will surpass this in importance and world-wide influence. Here were nearly three thousand Christian teachers and editors, physicians and missionaries, gathered from all the continents and islands of the world; met to consider, not how they might get fame or money or pleasure for themselves, but how, through the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they might better the condition of the world, heal its social and moral disorders, chase away its darkness, and bring in the day of universal righteousness and peace.

From the papers read and the discussions engaged in, it was evident that in this conference there were not a few men and women of marked mental strength and culture. It contained many who had distinguished themselves for their linguistic and literary attainments, who had reduced the unwritten languages of savages to written form, and made valuable contributions to archaeological and ethnological science; men the peers intellectually of many who sit in the British House of Commons, or are members of the British Scientific Association.

But it was chiefly remarkable for the singular devotion of its members to Christ and his cause, and for the patient and heroic way in which this devotion had shown itself. Witness, for example, John G. Paton, the hero of the New Hebrides, who saw his companion murdered, and who, lying upon the ground with his hands bound, and the warclubs of cannibals raised to strike, by sheer fortitude conquered his murderers. Witness how, by his undaunted labors, he has transformed twenty of these great islands, giving to each the home, the school, and the church, and translated the Word of God into twenty-two of their languages.

In comparison with deeds of this kind, the most brilliant exploits of worldings dwarf into petty littleness. If the world be regarded as a stage, on which is being unfolded the drama of human redemption, these saintly, high-souled men and women must be looked upon as the chief actors, under the immediate leadership of Jesus, and taking their orders directly from him.

The work of this conference was too large and multifarious to come under the observation of any individual present. As a whole, it could not be seen at any one time or in any one place; for in varying shapes it stretched itself over ten consecutive days, and carried on its operations in four or five large places at one and the same time. Christian missions were considered from every conceivable standpoint, and under every conceivable aspect. The very names of the topics which were discussed would fill several columns of the LINK, saying nothing of the discussions themselves. The two volumes, now being published (price \$1.00), will contain the whole, and be a very thesaurus of missionary information.

One of the most interesting appendages to the conference was the missionary museum that was opened to the public, in which were exhibited, among a thousand other things, a collection of two hundred grammars and dictionaries, prepared by the various missionaries to tribes and peoples that hitherto have had no literature; pictures of hospitals, dispensaries, homes for lepers, orphan asylums; new methods of sanitation; original copies of the codes, constitutions and reforms, written by these Christian teachers and finally adopted and proclaimed by native rulers. No such display of the victories of Christianity has ever before been made. This has been called the "wonderful century." The exposition in Paris will exhibit its tools and inventions. But man is a thousand times greater than the machine he constructs and the closing century will witness nothing so wonderful as the triumphs of Christianity in the transformation of abominably heathenish communities into Christian churches, beautiful in the garments of holiness.

D. M. W.

**THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.***Dear readers of the Link:*

I have been asked to write for you what seemed to me the characteristic features of the great Conference on Foreign Missions recently held in New York.