

fifty Volunteers gathered from the various universities, medical colleges, and other educational institutions of the British isles, and spent a week in conference under the leadership of men who are acknowledged authorities on the questions of missionary fields, needs, and methods. The *object* of the conference was the study of the best means of increasing interest at home and effectiveness abroad. Returned missionaries and missionary travellers were present to tell of the great wants of the heathen world, and to advise as to the best methods of preparation for the field and work in it. A glance at the names of some of the speakers will give a hint as to the helpfulness of the conference to the young men. Among others were J. Hudson Taylor, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Reed, of China; Dr. Guinness, Bishop Hill, and Mr. Smith, of Africa; Mr. McCheyne Paterson and Wright Hay, of India, and of those who have written and travelled in the interest of missions, Dr. George Smith, Dr. Murray Mitchell, Dr. Barbour, Mr. Eugene Stock, and Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop.

The subjects discussed at this convention were interesting and eminently practical. For the sake of brevity we group them under several heads, thus giving a consensus of opinion on various subjects rather than presenting in detail the thoughts brought forward by separate speakers.

As to the *need of the heathen world* for the Gospel, Mrs. Bishop, the celebrated traveller, made the noteworthy confession that she was a "convert to missions through seeing missions and the need for them." She added: "Missionaries by their lives and characters, and by the work they are doing everywhere I have seen them, have produced in my mind such a change and such an enthusiasm in favor of Christian missions, that I cannot go anywhere without speaking about them and trying to influence others in their favor who may be as indifferent as I was before I went among heathen countries."

Many of the heathen lands are one seething mass of corruption, political, social, and moral, from the top to the bottom stratum of society. Some of the heathen religions are undergoing a revival of *propagandism*, but at their best are entirely without power to uplift their adherents or to rid man from the thralldom of sin. The preponderating influences of these religions, Mrs. Bishop thinks it is no exaggeration to say, are "earthly, sensual, devilish."

To meet this call from the heathen world there is a great *need of more laborers*. There must be a "personal" call to each man, though this may not mean a "special" call. Thirty millions are dying every year without Christ. There is great paucity of missionaries throughout the whole heathen world. Central Asia and Central Africa are practically without missionaries, while large portions of Persia, Arabia, and China are also destitute of workers. What are needed are the "best men at their best"—men who have in their hearts a love like that which Christ had for a lost world, men who have an overwhelming sense of the value of each of the thousand millions of unevangelized souls, and of their lost