

charge of the New Hebrides and the 75,000 coolies of Trinidad.

Before closing Mr. McKay made a powerful appeal to the Christians present in behalf of the 40,000,000 women of India who have no remedy even for physical distress, not alone no hope and no knowledge of the Saviour. Our first duty is prayer. Let us wait on God for His Spirit to influence us; then, and not till then, will the men and the means be forthcoming to tell the world of Christ.

Students' Convention at Detroit.

IN July, 1886, a conference of college men was held at Mount Hermon, upon Mr. Moody's invitation, for the purpose of Bible study. There were 251 students present, representing 87 colleges. Ten days had passed before a word was said about missions, but a few young men especially young Wilde, were cherishing the conviction that God intended a number of these students for the foreign field. On the evening of July the 16th a missionary meeting was held at which Dr. Pierson pressed home the Lord's call for labourers and the perishing world's need. Another meeting was held and another, and another, and at the close of the conference an even one hundred volunteered to become messengers for Jesus Christ amongst the heathen, if God should open up the way. That is the origin of the students' volunteer movement. The fire soon spread; a deputation of students was appointed to visit the colleges, with the result that 477 institutions of learning have been reached, and over 7000 have volunteered to take part in this ministry. It very soon became apparent that enthusiasm evaporates, many students who volunteered during the first three years of the movement vanished and cannot be accounted for. This unsatisfactory state of affairs made it at once apparent that careful organization was necessary in order to secure what had been gained. Travelling secretaries were appointed to visit the colleges systematically and keep the machinery in order, with the result that after the first three years very few who enrolled themselves retreated from their declaration, and there are at the present time, on this continent, 8,200 *bona fide* volunteers who declare it to be their purpose, if God permits, to obey the Saviour's command—to carry the Gospel to the regions beyond. The first convention of this organization was held in Cleveland in the spring of 1891, which was considered, in every respect, a successful gathering. The second convention was held in Detroit last week. There were present 1,187 students, representing 294 institutions of learning, 151 of these students being from Canada. There were 88 religious bodies represented, 50 missionary societies, 50 missionaries who had been in the foreign field, some of them for over 40 years. So large a representation from abroad, together with the widespread interest existing amongst the Christian people of Detroit, secured very large audiences throughout the whole convention, the evening audiences overflowing into two of the neighbouring churches.

The object of this organization is not the sending out of missionaries; that is the work of the boards, and the students do not purpose to invade their territory. Their aim is the cultivation of a missionary spirit in the colleges and thus meet the demands of the various boards in order to evangelize the world in this generation. That will, to many, appear to be a hopeless undertaking, and yet, is it? In the light of the commission, "All power is given unto," "Lo, I am with you always," "Go ye therefore," is it too much to undertake? If it is not undertaken and over taken in this generation, so far as this generation is concerned, it will never be done. They will be gone into eternity, not having known Christ. With the promise and command of the Lord of Missions, and the world's awful need, surely the students are right in this holy ambition, although so impossible to unbelief. There were three mottoes displayed, which answer all difficulties: "Go ye therefore and disciple all nations, etc." "Let us advance upon our knees," "The evangelization of the world in this generation." These mottoes translated into practice will remove

all mountains and reach the end in view. It is not of course expected that all students can go abroad, but if the 25,000 students on this continent are duly impressed with the importance of the work, they who remain at home will do their part in the church, and there will be universal effort towards this the greatest and most important service ever undertaken by spirit-inspired men. By organization, missionary meetings, literature, etc., the students of America have inaugurated this movement and are labouring to that end. Already 666 of these volunteers are known to be in the foreign field, and yet it was only in 1886 the first meeting was held. In the Colleges of Great Britain there are only 700 volunteers, but eighty or ninety per cent. of all volunteers who graduated since the movement began, found their way into the foreign field. Surely the possibilities are incalculable, and should elicit the sympathy and co-operation and power of every one who has a heart that can feel for perishing men, and a conscience that urges obedience to the Lord's command. It has been said by an American scientist that if the heart-beats of one man could be brought to bear on the Bunker Hill monument it would crumble to dust. So if the heart-beat of the Church were brought to bear upon the great rock of heathenism, which has been intermittently assailed for sixty generations, before one generation more passed the Gospel would be preached to every creature. Does not the very thought thrill us with an ambition to be partners in this glorious enterprise? The tone of the Detroit meetings was pre-eminently spiritual. That was over kept in view. Prayer was always in order and speeches were begun and ended in prayer and delivered to praying audiences. There was no strong manifestation of emotion, the addresses were not fitted to produce such results, but were rather intended to deepen a sense of responsibility as soldiers of Jesus Christ, by the presentation of His claims upon us, and His interest in this world for which He died. That the services were effective appeared in many ways, especially at the close when 31 students stated that during these days they had resolved to consecrate their lives to the foreign missions. When the chairman asked how many in the meeting expected to go to the foreign field within a year fifty-two men and women arose, and each in a sentence or two named the field to which they expected to go, and stated the motive that actuated them. It is easy to speak of conventions as a sad and simply emotional and evanescent in their results. No doubt we have a great many of them and often they may have been disappointing. However that cannot be said of the conventions held in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, London and Detroit. That they were immediately fruitful in many lives is quite apparent, and that there will be a future harvest can be doubted only by the unsympathetic. Yet it ought not to be forgotten that it is as needful that we should have much prayer after, as well as before. If every Christian would accept the student-volunteer motto, "Let us advance on our knees," what might not the harvest be!

R. P. MACKAY.

Toronto Presbyterial Society.

THE annual meeting of the Toronto Presbyterial Society was held in Leslieville Presbyterian church, on Friday, February 23rd. It was very largely attended, about 250 members being present at the morning session, and nearly 500 in the afternoon. Reports were given by the different secretaries and the treasurers of the work for the past year. Five new auxiliaries had been formed, making a total of 77 societies in the Presbytery, 52 auxiliaries and 25 mission bands. The treasurer's statement showed a balance of \$5,874.50. A very gratifying contribution of clothing had been sent to the Northwest, about 2,661 pounds in weight. Two expressions of opinion were given at the business session.—One being that the "Toronto Presbyterial do not approve of any change being made in limiting the number of delegates for entertainment at the annual meeting." The other, "That the annual reports be paid for by the societies ordering them." A short conference was held on the subject,

"Suggestions for making Bible study profitable at auxiliary and band meetings." During the intermission, the delegates were most hospitably entertained at lunch by the ladies of St. John's and Leslieville auxiliaries. After the opening of the afternoon session, the names of the newly-elected officers were announced.—Mrs. Gray, president; Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Ball, Miss J. Smith, Mrs. J. O. Tubb, vice-presidents; Miss Reid, treasurer; Miss George, secretary; Miss Craig, secretary of supplies; Miss Phoebe Smith, *Leaflet* secretary. It was decided to hold the semi-annual meeting at Bolton, and the next annual meeting in College Street church. Two beautiful recitations were given by Miss Martha Smith, and a solo, "Cast thy Bread upon the Waters" was sung by Miss McDonald. The collection was a very generous one amounting to \$52.69. Dr. Marion Oliver gave a most interesting address, showing the great change that Christianity had wrought in the lives of Indian women during the past 25 years, and also told of the work being done by our own lady missionaries in India.

Church News.

In Canada.

MESSES. CROSSLEY AND HUNTER, who are about to begin a series of evangelistic meetings in Toronto, lately appeared in the First church, Brockville, where they made a deep impression.

THE communion was observed in St. Andrew's church, Truro, last week. The services throughout were remarkably well attended—especially considering the unusual severity of the weather. Seven young people were received into the full membership of the church on the occasion. On the last day of the old year ten names were added to the communion roll—eight by certificate, and two by baptism and profession of faith. At the recent annual meeting the congregation was found to be in a prosperous, progressive condition. The amount raised for all purposes during the past year was a little over \$4,000. After fully meeting all obligations there was a small balance on the right side.

A MEETING of the congregation of the First church, Brantford, was held on Tuesday of last week for the purpose of deciding whether a call be proceeded with, and if so, to whom it be given. The attendance of the congregation was very fair, the younger members and ladies being strongly represented. The moderator, Rev. Mr. Sinclair, opened the meeting with song and prayer, and gave a short sermon on a pastor being God's gift to His people, the necessary qualities of a minister, and other matters in connection with the call of a pastor. He then asked if the congregation was ready to proceed with a call. Mr. A. MacFarland moved that a call do not be proceeded with at present, but had no second for the motion. Mr. Stevenson moved, and Mr. Greig seconded a motion, that a call be proceeded with, and the motion was carried by a large majority. The selection of a name to insert in the call was the next order of business, and Mr. Green moved and Mr. Russell seconded that the name of R. H. Abraham be inserted in the call. As no other nominations were made, the motion was put to vote and carried by a large majority. It was then moved that the vote be made unanimous, and upon the vote being taken every member of the congregation voted for the call. Mr. Abraham is now stationed at Burlington, where he has been for the past four years, and is very popular with his congregation. He is about forty years of age, married, and has a small family. He preached in Brantford a few Sabbaths about four years ago, and was a very popular man with the congregation of the First church, when they last made a call for a minister, and it is understood that the call would have been extended to him had he been anxious to secure the pastorate. The call to Mr. Abraham was signed by about 150 members of the church. The Paris Presbytery will deal with the matter at their meeting on Tuesday next, and the call will be laid before the Hamilton Presbytery soon after.