

Missionary World.

PRESENT-DAY HEROINES ON THE MISSION FIELD.

Since the Apostle of the Gentiles paid eloquent tribute, in the sixteenth chapter of Romans, to a noble company of female helpers, what numbers of honorable women of every age and nation have exhibited similar heroic consecration!

The heroines belonging to the earlier part of this century dreamed not of the glory attaching to their pioneership. Stars in the darkness once, they now shine with deepening lustre. The names of Ann H. Judson, Miss Fiske, Mary Moffatt, Miss Fay, and Miss Field, of China; Mrs. Pruyn, of Japan; and kindred souls of former years, are surrounded to-day by a galaxy of bright witnesses.

What is known as Zenana work, principally consisting of educational and medical activities, has won triumphs of which even Christendom has faint knowledge. India, China, Turkey, and North Africa have especially been identified with these operations. Woman's gentle ministry in Hindostan, whether composed of British or American societies, or the Lady Dufferin Fund, is admitted by intelligent Hindoos to be one of the strongest conquering forces for Christ in that vast Empire. In this and corresponding spheres Mrs. Karmarker, of Bombay; Madame Sorabji Cavalier, Pundita Ramabai, and others, are a fraction of a glorious company who worthily tread in the footsteps of A. L. O. E. (Miss Tucker)—a name treasured wherever known—and the now lamented Miss Louisa M. Hook, of Calcutta, a missionary of the Women's Union Missionary Society (U. S. A.), who clung to her post with extraordinary fidelity, only taking one furlough during her long term of service, beginning in 1868, and was instrumental in securing numerous laborers for the redemption of the women of India. The North Africa mission, embracing Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, and Tripoli, has over a score of women missionaries, whose solitary steadfastness and fervid devotion deserve wider appreciation.

A forerunner of this band was the venerated Miss Tulloch, to the memory of whom the Tulloch Memorial Hospital at Tangier has been erected on the spot where she "fell asleep," and in which hundreds of patients of every race, color, and African speech, are annually received. Miss Herdman, the first lady missionary to Fez, some ten years ago, is a distinguished member of a group of ladies whose ministry is unsurpassed in relieving sadly neglected sisters on North African soil.

China and adjacent countries have enjoyed ardent and gracious messengers of the Gospel. The life work of Miss Baxter, a herald of medical missions in Hong Kong, is gratefully cherished. More recently the evangelistic endeavors of Miss Geraldine Guinness may be linked with this resolution, single-mindedness, and endurance of Miss Taylor in her missionary journey to far Tibet. In a greater measure have the unique achievements of Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop commanded notice and admiration. It is not too much to say that no lady of any communion or period in the history of the Church of Christ has travelled, investigated or contributed so extensively, in order to bring the claims of suffering and degraded women in Eastern Empires before the attention of God's people. Her undaunted chivalry and indifference to privations joins Mrs. Bishop's record with those of the late Mrs. Schaffler or Mrs. Murilla B. Ingalls, of Thonze, Burmah. The narrative of Miss Seymour's twenty-five years' toil in Harpoot is another admirable illustration of the power of missionary enthusiasm.

Nor has darkest Africa lacked the presence of the King's ambassadors. How self-abnegatingly Miss Mary L. White gave her entire strength and means in founding Christian schools and a medical

mission in Cairo, dating from 1860, and only terminating with her widely-mourned decease thirty years afterwards! The name of Madame Coillard sheds a halo over the Barotsi mission, and of worthy mention also is Mrs. C. J. Laffin, who travelled the greater length of a journey to Esulen, a station of the Presbyterian Board, and was the first white woman to penetrate the interior behind the coastbelt at Bataoga, West Africa. On the same continent, by the Congo, the hazardous labors of Miss Silvey among the Bayansi have become familiar, and those of Miss Isabella Nassau, who made this good confession from her station on the Ogowe river, Western Africa—"In lonely places, with only three or four trusted Christian natives, surrounded by crowds of wild people, neither by day nor by night have I feared, though, doubtless, there was at times reason for doing so." These assuredly are counted in the gallery of the faithful who are to rule the world in Christ's kingdom.

The islands of the sea suggest fellow-workers in the missionary apostleship of women. In illustration of these may be cited Mrs. Lawes, the honored wife of Dr. W. G. Lawes, of South eastern New Guinea, or Maggie Whitecross Paton, of America, whose letters just published set forth the unconscious manner of life pursued and crowned.

To these bearers of the Cross the Church of God is everywhere a standing debtor. They have shown the strength of the controlling spirit of Jesus Christ, and how truly the love of the Lord passeth all things for illumination.—*Rev. James Johnson, in the Sunday School Times.*

Dr. A. T. Pierson says: When Dr. Duff began work in Calcutta he found that a cow had more rights and higher rank than a woman, and he said that to try to educate women in India was as vain as to attempt to "scale a wall 500 yards high." To-day in the Province of Bengal alone 100,000 women and girls are under instruction, and India's most gifted daughters are laying hold of the treasures of the higher education. Zenana doors have been unlocked by the gentle hand of Christian womanhood, and a transformation is already accomplished which centuries of merely human wisdom and power could not even have begun.

When Dr. Duff began work in Calcutta he found that a cow had more rights and higher rank than a woman, and he said that to try to educate women in India was as vain as to attempt to "scale a wall 500 yards high." To-day, in the Province of Bengal alone, 100,000 women and girls are under instruction, and India's most gifted daughters are laying hold of the treasures of the higher education. Zenana doors have been unlocked by the gentle hand of Christian womanhood, and a transformation is already accomplished which centuries of merely human wisdom and power could not even have begun.—*Dr. A. T. Pierson.*

Uganda: The Inspiration of Sacrifice.—At a meeting of the Church Missionary Society held in London on 16th May, to take leave of ten missionaries for Uganda—five men and five women, the latter being the first female missionaries sent to that country—one of the party said: "It is useless to deny the fact that we carry our lives in our hands. But let no one say, even if some of us should never reach Uganda, that their lives have been lost. I know of four men now in the field who are out there as the direct result of one life laid down on the shores of Africa almost before his work was begun."

Faithful unto Death.—From Mongolia comes news of the death of the last convert whom Mr. Gilmour baptized. She was the daughter of the mission gatekeeper. Her death is ascribed to the unmerciful cruelty of her mother-in-law, who tried to force her to burn incense. When she was dying she tried to sing a hymn which Mr. Gilmour taught her, the chorus of which is, "Wait a little while, and we shall see Jesus." The missionary's works do follow him.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Washington Gladden: It is better to say, "This one thing I do," than to say, "These forty things I dabble in."

Lutheran Observer: Silence is not always golden. There are sins of omission as well as commission, and silence is often one of them.

Ram's Horn: Too many Christians never expect any help from God until everything else fails. Better count on Him from the beginning.

Phillips Brooks, D.D.: Life is too short to nurse one's misery. Hurry across the lowlands, that you may spend more time on the mountain-tops.

Dr. Wm. M. Taylor: Christ fits his ministers through manifold experiences of sorrow and pain for the highest service. He writes their best sermons for them on their own hearts by the sharp *stylus* of trial. Such as he would make most eminent in his service, he takes furthest with him into Gethsemane.

Joseph Parker, D.D.: God will not forsake a man who has been "wholly" devoted to him. O, poor heart, wondering when the good time is to come, when Hebron is to fall in as part of the inheritance, take courage. God knows every word He has spoken. When he does bring in the inheritance it will be no little measurable Canaan, but all heaven's blessedness.

Rev. Wm. Cochrane, D.D.: It is not necessary that we should do great things to be held in remembrance and make our lives potential for good. Few comparatively ever attain positions of eminence. Nay, it is not those who occupy commanding positions that are as a general rule crowned with earthly immortality. Surely then it is worth the living for thus to set in motion forces that shall continue to act long after we have passed away. A word, a look, an act, may seem in themselves very insignificant things, but they carry with them results that we cannot trace. A very solemn responsibility thus attaches to every individual.

Rev. Wm. Cochrane, D.D.: The future greatness and influence of this Province, next to the faithful preaching of the gospel, depends upon the character and efficiency of its schools, and he who can at this time contribute in any way to conciliate opposition, while at the same time retaining and maintaining the rights of a free state to legislate in accordance with what it deems best for the good of all, without distinction of creeds and classes, is deserving of lasting fame. May God grant that this young Province may be able itself to solve a problem which has, and is still, perplexing other older lands, and bind together more closely than ever all parties and denominations for the further progress of this highly favored land.

Richard Jefferies: To my fancy, the spring, with its green corn, its violets, and hawthorn leaves, and increasing song, grows yearly dearer and more dear to this our ancient earth. So many centuries have flown. Now it is the manner with all natural things to gather, as it were, by smallest particles. The merest grain of sand drifts unseen into a crevice, and by and by another; after a while there is a heap; a century and it is a mound, and then every one observes and comments on it. Time itself has gone on like this; the years have accumulated, first in drifts, then in heaps, and now a vast mound, to which the mountains are knolls, rises up and overshadows us. Time lies heavy on the world. The old, old earth is glad to turn from the cark and care of driftless centuries to the first sweet blades of green.

Christian Endeavor.

OUR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR PLEDGE—ITS JOYS, ITS REQUIREMENTS.

REV. W. S. McTAVISH, B.D.

Sept. 22nd.—Ecc. 5: 1-7.

Our pledge is of the nature of a vow. We were not obliged to take it, but since we have taken it we should earnestly and honestly try to keep it inviolate. It is well to renew our covenant obligations for their full significance is not taken in at a glance. Probably for this reason our attention is called again to the pledge.

We have pledged ourselves to do whatever Christ would like to have us do. This involves a great deal. The pledge of the Epworth League is slightly different from ours in this respect, for it involves the idea of trying to ascertain what the will of Christ is. As a matter of fact we should be as earnest in trying to learn His will as in doing it when we know it. Paul blamed the Jews because they had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge; and while it is true that the best of men may make mistakes as to the path of duty, yet before we take a single step, we should try to ascertain which way we ought to go. If we are really in earnest we shall hear a voice behind us saying "This is the way, walk ye in it." A large measure of joy is meted out to the one who walks in the way of the divine commandments. John said he had no greater joy than to see his spiritual children walking in the truth, and doubtless they, too, participated in the joy.

By the terms of our pledge we must engage daily in devotion. No definite hours or times are specified. It is left to the individual Endeavorer to fix whatever time or times he finds most convenient. Daniel prayed three times a day. The Psalmist prayed seven times a day. To pray by rule may not be the ideal method; but the best way to overcome the necessity of using a rule is to make a faithful use of it as long as we require it. The best way for a school boy to get beyond the need of the headlines in his copy-book is to make a faithful copy of the headline as long as he needs it. So it may seem a mechanical kind of religion when we pledge ourselves to pray and read the Bible every day, but we shall get beyond the need of a pledge sooner by using it faithfully in the meantime. If we faithfully observe the pledge for a considerable time, we shall be enabled to sing—

"Oh the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend!"

The pledge also requires us to support our own Church in every way. If "the dearest spot on earth is home," then our own Church home should be dearer to us than any other Church. God once said to Israel "Why gaddest thou about to change thy place?" One can scarcely refrain from asking that question when he sees "rounders" going about from church to church as if they were poor and homeless ecclesiastically. What a joy to the true Christian to attend the sanctuary which he has learned to love because of its many pleasant associations and because he has often met God, his Father, there!

"I love to tread the hallowed courts
Where two or three for worship meet,
For thither Christ Himself resorts
And makes the little band complete."

We should be able to say as we look up reverently to God, "I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honor dwelleth."

Our pledge further requires us to take some part in the meeting. At first there may be little joy in this—indeed it may be engaged in with great fear and trembling; but if we find, as most likely we shall, that someone has been helped, comforted, or encouraged by our imperfect attempts, we shall experience a joy which no man can take from us. Does it not seem as if Paul had a Christian Endeavor meeting in his eye when he wrote first Cor. x. v. 24-26, "But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, etc.?" The most beneficial result followed that meeting, and those who had a share in it had good reason to be glad.

There are other requirements and other joys but space forbids our dealing with them now.