

children, made them put on their clothes and we all sallied out to try to go to the Chowasta. We had gone but a little way when we came to a stream of water which was rushing down the hillside like the Ohio River (it may be necessary to explain that the unfortunate Wilber was an American lad). "My eldest sister on seeing this halted the party and said to us: "I promised papa that we would not be separated. The little ones cannot get through the stream." I and my brothers urged her to try but she repeated that she had promised papa that we should not be separated. We went back into the house, but as the storm increased in fury and the danger became greater we sallied forth again. This time we tried the Leboagh Road but had only gone a little way when we came face to face with sliding earth and stones, and a great rock went whizzing past us. My eldest sister stopped us again and said: "We must not be separated, I promised papa, if we are to be saved we will be saved together, if we are to go to heaven we will go to heaven together." We again went back into the house, and my sister lighted a fire and dried the clothes of the little ones. The storm became worse, and we climbed the staircase and went into our mother's room, which is on the right of the staircase. We had only been there a little time when the roof gave way, and we rushed out into the hall and passed into the other room on the second floor to the left of the staircase. Here we all knelt round the bed and my eldest sister prayed. As she was praying I looked up and saw the wall coming toward me. I remembered nothing more until I found myself in the rain. I saw lights in the distance and tried to go toward them. I tried two or three times and then fell asleep (became unconscious). I was found about seven o'clock in the morning and taken to the Sanitarium."

Such was poor little Wilber Lee's pathetic story. The Rev. Mr. Mackay added that there was good hope of the boy's recovery until pneumonia set in. But even the pneumonia gave way to careful medical treatment, and hopes were again entertained as to Wilber's recovery. Hardly had this hope been cherished when symptoms of tetanus presented themselves, and even then all hope was not abandoned. He was slightly better on Monday afternoon but toward the evening grew worse and passed away at 1:45 A. M., Tuesday.

### THE SUPREME OPPORTUNITY.

[Extracts from an address by the Rev. Samuel B. Capen, President of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.]

Missionary work, the center of the life of every church, the supreme test of loyalty to the Master.

Therefore, a realization of the true measure of our ability, and gifts truly proportioned to that ability, our present duty.

Does it seem to some that I am putting the emphasis in the wrong place? Let us look at the situation.

First. We find the world wide open everywhere to receive the message of Jesus Christ. We no longer offer the prayers of our fathers that God would "open the gates of heathen lands." He answered that prayer years ago.

Second. Go back ten years, and the constant petition was for men to go into the hard places. That prayer we have ceased to offer, for there are volunteers waiting to be sent to the farthest outpost.

Third. Neither do our churches as a whole need to pray for more money to do the work. We have that now in our own possession. See how we spend for our selves out of all proportion to what we give. What we do need, keeping that in our thoughts the missionary work, is to organize ~~our~~ churches to give to it systematically and proportionately.

### ORGANIZATION.

This is the first purpose of the Committee of Fifteen chosen a few months since, partly by the National Council, and partly by our National Missions societies, to secure, if possible, a gift every year from every church, for each of our six societies. The result is to be attained by having a missionary committee in every State, in every conference and in every church, which shall see to it that there is definite planning, and effort in some measure commensurate with the supreme importance of the work. We are to apply modern and successful business methods to the Lord's business.

The remark was made in an address at the Providence meeting, that only about one-tenth of our church members give to our missionary work. This is probably an over-statement, but it is true that there is a large fraction who give little or nothing, and who are often conspicuous by their absence on "Missionary Sunday." We hope that the missionary committees in the churches will reach out after the absentees so that all shall share in this work, not only for God's glory, but for their good. There is need of personal missionary canvass.

This effort for better organization for missionary service has come in the Providence of God in answer to a great need.

(1) Only 1,171 churches out of our 5,820, or twenty one per cent, gave last year to all of the six societies. (2) In those churches which do give, because of the lack of method, many members give nothing. It is a well known fact that the giving is done by a minority of the membership. (3) Because of ignorance with regard to our six-fold work, large sums of money are wasted every year in gifts to very doubtful experiments. The truth needs to be made more clear that money given to our missionary societies, whose work is constantly open to review, is the money most likely to bring permanent results. Business men have learned that organization always gives efficiency and power, and this is nowhere more true than in missionary work. Officials in our Boards of Organized Charities in our cities will convince any skeptic. If we could only save the waste, there would be full treasuries.

In order to see clearly what an organized effort like that proposed by the Committee of Fifteen would do for our missionary societies, let us look at the facts. The total gifts of the living to our six societies have averaged the past ten years about \$1,200,000. Last year they were \$1,275,965. The Committee recommended that this amount be increased to \$1,600,000. Does this seem too much to ask? Our church membership is 628,234. Let us exclude for our present purpose more than one-half say 328,234, as an estimate for children, persons of extreme poverty, etc., and count as givers but 300,000. The total amount suggested, \$1,600,000, divided among 300,000 members, is \$5.33 each per year, or an average of a little over ten cents a week per member. It would really be less than this, for in every parish there are numbers, not enrolled as church members, who give often times generously to missionary work. There are many