

these pages, giving examples from modern missionary history of the unmistakable interposition of God in answer to prayer, and in behalf of His servants and their work. We desire these articles not to exceed about 3,000 words each, and to contain not less than ten such examples, brief and telling, duly authenticated. To encourage investigation and thorough work in this direction we hereby offer to the writer of the best contribution \$100, and \$50 for the second best, the Editors to be the judges, and to have the right to their exclusive publication in "THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD." They are to be at liberty also to use any competing articles in the REVIEW, other than the prize articles, by paying the usual rate per page. All such articles to be sent to us before January 1, 1891. And upon this sincere effort to promote acquaintance with the modern signs of God's faithfulness to His promises, and increased faith in the presence of the Captain of the Lord's host with His faithful witnesses, we ask the blessing of God.

A. T. P.  
J. M. S.

#### The Student Volunteer Movement.

[Our deep interest in and high appreciation of this wonderful uprising, as the pages of this REVIEW abundantly prove, make us very jealous of its reputation, and anxious to do what in us lies to promote its healthy growth and highest efficiency. That mistakes should be made; that large numbers should take the pledge hastily, under high excitement, and afterwards lose their enthusiasm and disregard their solemn promises, was to be expected. We are clearly of the opinion that too much effort has been put forth simply to secure pledges and roll up a vast list of volunteers, not using due care and discrimination in the selection. It will be fatal in the end if all are accepted and enrolled who offer themselves. Personally we have carefully studied this "movement" from its origin, and during the past few months have had peculiar opportunities to learn the present spirit and attitude of a very large proportion of this army of volunteers, and we do not hesitate to say—and we say it in

the spirit of the utmost friendliness and desire for the future success of the cause—that the time has come when far more, if not the chief, attention should be given to the work of *sifting, discriminating, training, and looking sharply after the already enrolled 5,000 students*. A thousand fold more depends on the *character*, the fitness, the integrity and continuance of these pledged men and women, than on their *number*. We have great confidence in, and share in the anxiety and desire of, the leaders and officers of this movement, and we know they are not blind to its incidental evils and dangers. May God give them wisdom and fidelity in their responsible trust!

We have been led to write the above by the reception of the following letter from the Rev. Lemuel C. Barnes, D. D., of Newton Centre, Mass., a representative man of New England, whose whole heart is in the missionary work.—J. M. S.]

DEAR DR. SHERWOOD:—I heard the subscriber to the enclosed, who is under appointment to Japan by the American Baptist Mission Union, give the address from which this is an extract. It seemed to me that he made a valuable summary and analysis of the volunteer movement not otherwise published. I accordingly asked him to hand it to me that I might bring it to your notice for the MISSIONARY REVIEW, if you should think best to use it there.

Yours truly,

LEMUEL C. BARNES.

June 17, 1890.

#### EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS ON THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

"The most serious criticism passed upon the movement is that very few of those who sign the pledge ever reach the foreign field. This is partly true and partly false.

The churches have supposed that the volunteers were ready to appear before the various boards, and consequently have looked in vain each year for the forthcoming men. But it must be remembered that the band is made up of students in all stages of preparation. Of the 5,000 who have taken the pledge 86% or 4,300 are still in the schools; 5% or 250 have reached the foreign field; 1% or 50 have been rejected for various reasons; 3% or 150 have graduated but are still in this