

THE next convention of the Students' Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions will assemble in Detroit, February 28th, and continue till March 4th. From present indications it is probable this will be the largest and most important convention since the Movement began.

ANOTHER urgent call from the Treasurers! Send in the funds, dear brethren, as soon as you can. We have heavy responsibilities to meet, and urgent appeals are coming from some of the mission districts for remittances which we are unable to send. A few thousand dollars would be a great help just now.

THE sudden and lamented death of the Rev. W. T. Hicks left a vacancy at Sault Ste. Marie, and also in the Chair of the District. The emergency has been met by the appointment of the Rev. E. Barrass, D.D., to the vacant pulpit, and he has since been elected Chairman of the District. A cordial reception was tendered to Dr. Barrass on his arrival, and he seems to be well pleased with his surroundings.

## Editorial and Contributed.

### This Month's Picture.

ON the first page will be found a photogravure of the reinforcements for the West China Mission, together with Dr. O. L. Kilborn, who came down from Chen-tu to escort the party into the interior. It will be remembered that about a year ago the Woman's Missionary Society sent out two workers, Dr. Retta Gifford and Miss Brackbill. These ladies remained in Shanghai, studying the language and getting some insight into practical missionary work, until they were joined by Rev. James Endicott, B.A., and Dr. H. Mather Hare, sent out last summer by the parent society. We trust that ere this these new recruits have reached the battlefield in the Province of Tz-Chuen, (they were expected about the middle of January), where they will be heartily welcomed by those who are holding the fort.

### Why

THERE are, in the Dominion, about 1,000 Epworth Leagues and Societies of Christian Endeavor connected with the Methodist Church, and probably an average of fifty members each would be a moderate estimate, or 50,000 members in all. What are they doing for missions? Some have adopted what is called the "Fulton plan," or two-cents-a-week. Why not utilize our new mite-boxes, and make the plan universal? President Clark, of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, says: "I believe in Mr. Fulton's two-cents-a-week plan because I believe that a blessed process of evolution will make it the two-dollars-a-week plan for many Endeavorers one of these days. I should be very sorry if any remained content with two cents a week all their lives." We endorse the sentiment. Send for the mite-boxes and see how much can be done.

### The Mite-Boxes are Mighty.

WE are glad to find that our new mite-boxes are taking well and are likely to be a powerful factor in working up the income, especially where there is a faithful, wide-awake pastor behind them, as in the following case:—

LAKEFIELD, Jan. 16th, 1894.

DEAR DOCTOR,—The twenty mite-boxes are insufficient to meet the demands of our congregation. I introduced the matter of systematic giving at our last Epworth League of Christian Endeavor consecration meeting, and again at our last Sunday morning service, and offered the mite-boxes. No one was pressed or coaxed to take one; but I found many willing, and the boxes are all gone, and more asked for. Kindly send me fifteen or twenty more. I think the missionary spirit in Lakefield Methodism is sufficiently alive to use them all. Despite the hard times, I expect and am working for a good advance in our returns.

Yours faithfully,

S. T. BARTLETT.

### Conference of Secretaries.

ABOUT a year ago the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions of the United States invited a Conference of representatives of all the Protestant Missionary Boards in the United States and Canada to consider questions of common interest to all the societies. The benefits of that Conference were so apparent that it was decided to hold another, and on the 17th of January representatives of some fifteen or sixteen societies met in the Board Room of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of New York. A most devout and earnest spirit prevailed throughout the entire session, and all felt that it was good to be there.

Next to the devotional spirit, the most marked feature of the Conference was its entirely practical character. There was no gush—no mere sentiment—no time wasted in telling stories, but a close attention to the business in hand, prompted by a deep conviction of the overwhelming vastness of the great missionary enterprise, and the necessity of utilizing all available forces to awaken the Churches and speed on the work.

The Rev. Dr. Ellinwood, of the Presbyterian Board, presided during the forenoon session with his accustomed dignity and grace, and the Rev. Drs. Baldwin and Stacey made model secretaries. The papers presented were not numerous, but they all dealt with topics of permanent interest, and each elicited a shower of questions, drawing out information of great practical value. Sometimes the session became a sort of experience meeting, when representatives of the various Boards gave information respecting their work and methods. At the forenoon session the following topics were considered: 1. How to Awaken and Maintain an Intelligent Missionary Spirit in the Home Churches, introduced by Rev. J. O. Peck, D.D. 2. The Development of Self-supporting Churches in the Foreign Field, introduced by Rev. Dr. Mabie. 3. How to Obtain Missionary Candidates of the Highest Qualifications, introduced by Rev. Dr. Duncan.