

Student Convention at Rochester.

WHAT was probably the most notable event in recent years in the college world of America took place a fortnight ago at Rochester. More than 3,000 professors and students, representing 722 institutions of higher learning in the United States and Canada, gathered there to consider unitedly the leading problems of the world's evangelization. Over 600 leaders in Christian work in all lands met with them. Five days of earnest prayerful conference followed. Truly they were great days, when those present were brought to see a vision of a deeper spiritual life for every individual, a vision also of a world-wide crisis in non-Christian lands and of wonderful opportunities now open to the students of America to make their lives count for much in the advancement of the kingdom of God on earth.

It was the Sixth Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for foreign missions, which aims to awaken and maintain among all Christian students in the 1,000 institutions of higher learning in North America, intelligent and active interest in foreign missions, to enrol a sufficient number of well-qualified volunteers and to help them prepare for their life-work. That it is accomplishing these ends is perhaps best shown by the fact that since the Nashville Convention four years ago 1,275 volunteers have sailed to foreign fields. In the same time the students of North America have increased their givings to missionary objects sixty per cent. and the number engaged in mission study has doubled. At the Convention Mr. J. R. Mott, the chairman, asked for funds to provide for eight new travelling secretaries, in order that the Movement might cope with the tasks before it. Eighty-five thousand dollars, subscribed in a few minutes by those present was the response. A still more impressive offering was made when ninety-one students signified their intention of going to the foreign field within the next twelve months.

Two banners displayed in Convention Hall where the gatherings were held sum up the message of the Conference. Above the platform was the motto of the Movement:—"The Evangelization of the World in this Generation,"—which was defined as meaning "to give to all men now living an adequate opportunity to know and to receive the Living Christ." Facing it was this other banner, "Not by might nor by power, but by My spirit, saith Jehovah of Hosts." The appeal of the Convention was not only for men and women to go to the non-Christian lands as missionaries, but even more for a deeper, purer Christianity in our universities, colleges and schools. If the work in foreign lands is to go forward there must be a strong home base. The Christianity developed in our colleges must be worth propagating. "The present comparatively superficial knowledge which many Christian college students have of the foundation of facts of the Christian faith does not qualify them for spreading the Christian faith in the lands of the other religions, or here in America. The present day calls for men of power, pre-eminently for men of spirituality."