

Missionary World.

AMONG LABRADOR FISHERMEN.

[The following sketch is taken from "Vikings of To-day; or, Life and Work Among the Fishermen of Labrador." By Wilfred T. Grenfell, M.R.O.S.E., L.R.C.P. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.25.—EDITOR.]

The peninsula of Labrador has an area of about 420,000 square miles—equal to the British Isles, France, and Austria, or nearly ten times the size of the State of Pennsylvania. It is in part under the government of Newfoundland and in part under that of the Province of Quebec. Sterile and forbidding, it lies among fogs and icebergs, famous only, besides, for dogs and cod. As an abode for civilized man, Labrador is, on the whole, one of the most uninviting spots on the face of the earth. Work as he may, one man cannot here keep the wolf from the door. The Eskimos and Indians are fast dying out, and the white settlers can only make a respectable living with the help of sons and the aid of all the modern counting and fishing appliances. Labrador has a population of about 13,000, including some 7,000 whites on the St. Lawrence and Atlantic coast, 2,000 Eskimos also on the coast, and 4,000 Indians in the interior. Besides these, in May and June every year the coast is visited by from 20,000 to 25,000 fishermen, women, and children. No signs of material civilization are to be seen in Labrador; settlements contain from 10 to 150 inhabitants; liquor (strange to say) is sold only in three or four harbors, and no jail or police exist. The people are, as a rule, law-abiding, but crimes go unpunished. Christian work (teaching and preaching) is carried on in a few places by five or six Methodists, Presbyterians, and Church of England workers from Canada and Newfoundland; the Moravians work among the Eskimos; the Salvation Army, the British Bible Society, and the Society for the Deep Sea Fishermen send men to work among the fishermen in the summer-time. Most of these workers must cover a very large circuit, traveling by dog sled or in canoes to the small hamlets on the coast or inland. The medical work accomplished by the Deep Sea Fishermen Society workers has been especially important, for there are no resident physicians. The spiritual good accomplished has also been marked, and promises further progress.

INTRODUCING THE GOSPEL ACROSS COUNTRY IN SIAM.

In January, Mr. Eckels and Mr. McClure made a tour through two provinces in the south, and were gone about three weeks. They took two ox carts to carry their accoutrements: tent, medicines, provisions, scripticon, Bible picture-roll, bedding and clothing. Besides Nai Boon, the evangelist, they took two coolies to cook and help with the tent. They walked themselves and had many trying experiences, but both kept well and found opportunities at every stopping place for teaching. Water was scarce, and much of it not very good. Part of the way was through a jungle where tigers abound, but they saw nothing but a harmless antelope and some chickens. Of the latter they shot several and enjoyed them very much. At one place they ate beef from a cow which had been killed by a tiger a few hours before; that is as near as they came to meeting his royal highness. At one place Mr. Eckels vaccinated seventy six persons. As soon as they reached Kooil they telegraphed that all were well. They had been gone ten days and we had received no news from them, so their messages were read with joy and gratitude to our Father. They spent two or three days there preaching and teaching.

On their way home, when within about sixty miles they decided to walk on ahead and so left the carts early Friday morning,

Mr. Eckels carrying his grip, and Mr. McClure and the coolie a lunch basket. They walked along the sea shore between forty and fifty miles, part of the way through soft sand, and could hardly drag themselves the last of the way, their feet were so badly blistered. They slept in the summer house of an official and next morning had a breakfast, native style, at the home of one of the school boys. They were so stiff they tried to hire a cart to bring them the rest of the way, but they tried in vain, so they toiled on ten more weary miles. At dinner time they stopped in the shade near a house and sent for a drink. The woman there was most kind. She boiled rice for them and made plenty of tea. Mr. Eckels says that rice never tasted quite so good as the swimming bowlful she served him. He calls her their good Samaritan. We were surprised to see them come limping in about five o'clock that evening. Mr. Eckels could not wear his shoes for about a week.

This is the first trip that has ever been made across the country to those cities and many listened to the story of salvation for the first time. I am sure you will pray much for us that we may be diligent in teaching God's Word. Pray with us for the great mass of Siamese, who are still in darkness. Pray also for those who have professed to love our Saviour, that they may be established in the faith and made strong to war a good warfare.

ISRAEL RETURNING.

Under this title the editor of *The Truth* says: "A friend has sent a copy of the *London Daily Chronicle*, containing a remarkable interview with Sir Samuel Montague, the well-known Jewish millionaire-banker and merchant. He says: 'To inhabit Palestine is an aspiration that may simply be said to form part and parcel of the Jewish race,' and expresses cordial approval of the plan urged by Holman Hunt, the distinguished artist, to establish a Jewish nation and government in the land, given by an oath-bound covenant to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their literal seed. The rich banker further declares that whenever Turkey is inclined, or compelled, to sell Palestine, 'whatever the whole amount needed might be, it could be raised many times over.' Along with this comes another article from the *Morning Star*, written by Mr. Eppstein, who confirms the truth of the strange stories that orders have been issued to various workshops in Italy for the carving of pillars and capitals, to be placed in the anticipated temple of Jerusalem."

The article concludes: "Let ignorant men think as they please, it still remains true, for God has said it, 'He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.' Jer. xxxi. 10."

Bishop Thoburn writes to the *Christian Advocate* saying that the Methodist Episcopal Church is close on a missionary crisis. The crisis has indeed already made itself felt in some foreign fields, and will soon be felt in all. It is largely the result of success, and "yet it none the less threatens ruin to our foreign missionary work, unless dealt with speedily and effectually." It seems that four missionary families on furlough from Southern Asia have been told not to return, and nine other families are to be retired from the work. It is also proposed to discontinue one of the missions in China, while other mission fields will share the same fate unless the churches put forth more strength—i.e., give more liberally. "The cost of the mission work has been reduced one half, while its success has been increased fourfold." The broad truth is that the development of missionary work all over the world demands a new standard of giving on the part of the churches; it is the Divine antidote to the love of money which threatens them with such serious evils, and should be accepted with gratitude.

Young People's Societies.

CONDUCTED BY A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE.

DOMINION DAY.

The first Dominion Day was in 1867, twenty-nine years ago, and therefore beyond the recollection of most of the young people. It celebrated the confederation of the various separate provinces into which British North America was then divided. It stretched only half way across the continent, at that time Ontario being its western limit. From Manitoba to the Pacific came in later. Canada has developed vastly since Confederation. Its population has increased, though not as rapidly as was hoped. Its agriculture, manufactures, mines, and the yearly "harvest of the sea" have multiplied its wealth. Its school and churches have kept pace with the population. Canada was a country to be proud of twenty-nine years ago. It is a country to be yet prouder of to-day; and one of the most gratifying facts in its history is the national spirit which has arisen. Canadians are beginning to get some grasp of what a magnificent domain is theirs, and what a population, God-fearing, intelligent, industrious, enterprising, and what a mission, to perpetuate the grand traditions of Britain on this side of the sea. The young people have a great heritage. It is theirs to guard it, and to hand it on, a greater heritage still, to those who shall come after them.

A TRUSTY WEAPON.

Rev. A. McMillan, of St. Enoch's, Toronto, describes a service in St. Giles, Edinburgh, attended by the second battalion of the Black Watch, the famous 42nd, "red-coated and dark plaided." "Immediately after the close of the service we took up a position at the mouth of the 'entry' on the High Street, and watched the regiment as in splendid order it marched up the Castle hill. We were greatly impressed by one feature; the men carried no arms, but, in place of the bayonet rifle, each man carried in his right hand a Bible. It was striking to see those brave fellows holding in their hands as they marched that greater sword, 'the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God'—'quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.'"

THE FRICTION LOAD

An important matter is wisely discussed by Mr. W. L. Amerman, president of the New York City Union, in a recent issue of the local-union organ, *The Endeavorer*. He says: "'The friction load' is the term machinists give to the amount of power, about ten per cent., which a steam-engine must exert merely to turn its fly-wheel and the light shafting attached, without doing any of the actual work which calls its entire capacity into action; the force required, for example, in a sawmill before the log is placed in contact with the whirling blade and the real strain begins. Our district and local-union machinery would be far more effective if 'the friction load' did not frequently consume almost all the power of the engine. The time and strength of the available workers often go entirely into keeping the machinery running, going through the motions, maintaining the routine, instead of being applied to extending aggressively the work."—*Golden Rule*.

WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENTS.

It is an admirable plan to devote a few minutes of every weekly meeting to the recitation of encouragements. If any of the committees have met with special success during the past week; if they have developed any new methods of working; if any individual members have received special blessings, or if any Endeavorers have observed deeds of kindness and helpfulness in others, such bits of good cheer should be presented at this time for the good of all. A few minutes devoted to this exercise will be not only a great stimulus to optimism, but will become, as the members prepare for them, an education in the noble art of looking on the bright side of things.—*Christian Endeavorer*.

ENTHUSIASM IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

REV. W. S. M'TAVISH, B.D., DESERONTO.

(Prayer for the International Christian Endeavor Convention.)
July 12.—Acts iv. 13-33.

In some things men grow quite enthusiastic enough. During the late election contest, what enthusiasm was displayed, not in the great centers of population only, but in every little hamlet in the land! Men discussed with great earnestness political questions, and they cheered lustily for their favorite candidates. Throughout the eight or nine weeks while the campaign was in progress, men were at no loss for subjects for conversation. If a group of men met together, it was only necessary to mention elections; instantly they were prepared to argue the merits of the policies of the different parties and their chances of success. But an election is not the only thing which can excite men to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Let a new gold mine be discovered; let a grand horse-show be approaching; let there be an athletic contest in sight; and how great will be the enthusiasm of those who have any share in these things! Strange then, is it not, that any one should require to be urged to be zealous in Christian service? And yet we all know how cold and listless we sometimes become in the Master's work. We know it is good to be zealously affected always in a good cause, and yet though the cause is before us, we sometimes have little heart to rally to its support. But we should be enthusiastic in Christian service.

(1) Because the service itself is most honorable. There are some positions which one might not care to occupy, but no one need be ashamed to labor, in any sphere, for Christ. In the eyes of the world, it may not be counted a great thing to render Christian service to our fellowman, but we must remember that Christ was willing to do even menial work, and when He had done it, He said "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye ought also to wash one another's feet" (John xiii. 14). We should not forget, moreover, that whatever service we render our fellowman is, in reality, rendered to Christ Himself, and surely nothing could be more honorable than to serve Christ (Matt. xxv. 40). This service is so honorable that even the best and noblest men have regarded it as a privilege to engage in it. Witness Paul and John, and all the great preachers and evangelists since the days of the Apostles.

(2) It is reasonable service. If Christ regards service rendered to His people as service rendered to Himself, then surely it is reasonable that we should not live for self, but for the good that we can do. What have we that we did not receive from Him? We almost shudder to think what would have been our condition now, if Christ had not stooped to serve us. Is it not reasonable, therefore, that if there is anything we can do to honor His name, to advance the interests of His kingdom, or to help those who are dear to Him, we should do it heartily and cheerfully?

(3) It is service for which we shall be amply rewarded. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not" (Gal. vi. 9). Let us "be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labors are not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. xv. 58). Every one of us shall receive his own reward, according to his own labor (1 Cor. iii. 8). Seeing that such is the character of the service and the reward, how zealous we should be in the Lord's work. Like Peter and John before the council, we should be determined to go forward in the face of the most bitter opposition, rejoicing that we are counted worthy to serve such a great, glorious and divine Saviour. The crest worn by the Prince of Wales contains, as a motto, the words "Ich Dien"—I serve. Though we may not wear the motto in a conspicuous place, we should at least have the spirit which enables us to say, "I serve." Of Christ we should be willing to say, "His I am, and Him I serve."