

II.—GENERAL MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions.

The time is drawing near when men who are in our colleges and seminaries will be making plans for the summer. Many, perchance, who hope to be in active work in a few years are asking themselves the question, How can I aid the world's evangelization now? Last summer Messrs. Bond and McCall reported as a result of fifty-two meetings, held principally in New York State, \$6,000 pledged, and thirteen volunteers secured. Mr. A. N. O'Brien, in the summer of '88, devoted four weeks in visiting colleges, and secured sixty-seven volunteers. The latter gentleman, when asked what he considered requisites for this phase of the work, replied: First, an earnest conviction of the needs of the field; second, a knowledge of what the Scriptures reveal of God's will in regard to the evangelization of the world; third, personal need of humility and the presence of God. What has been accomplished in the instances given is sufficient indication of what may be done in the same line of effort this coming vacation. There are good fields open for the efforts of many who will work in dead earnest, whose hearts the Lord has touched.

Volunteers, who were privileged to attend the Central District Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance at Chester, Pa., Feb. 27-28, will remember the occasion with gratitude and thanksgiving. About fifty delegates, representing nine theological seminaries from the four States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, were present. The meetings were held in the First Baptist Church, of Chester.

After the address of welcome a paper was read by Mr. A. S. Dechont, of the Reformed Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa. His theme was "Scope and Purposes of our Annual Convention." The gentleman took occasion to state his views regarding the pledge used by The Student Vol-

unteer Movement. He not only took exception to the method of its use, but expressed the opinion that he could find no sufficient reason for its existence. *En passant*, Mr. Dechont is not a volunteer. The spirited discussion which followed the reading of this paper showed a division of opinion among the delegates on the pledge question. Before adjournment, the house called on Mr. Robert P. Wilder, of Union Theological Seminary, to express his opinion on the subject of the pledge. This gentleman gave convincing proof for its *raison d'être*. In his line of argument he began with an appeal to the individual, urging that men ought to take a stand during the college course, or early in the seminary course, in order that adequate preparation be made for effective work in the foreign fields. "The pledge," Mr. Wilbur said, "indicated that a decision had been made, and it showed to one's fellow-men that the man had taken a definite stand; secondly, in working for recruits, a pledged man can say, Come, whereas a non-pledged man can only say, Go." He then gave a brief account of the marvellous missionary interest awakened in the universities in England and in Scotland in 1885, and stated how that movement had not been conserved, for the reason that men had not committed themselves to writing, and without names it had been impossible to follow up and utilize the interest already awakened. "The very existence of 'The Student Volunteer Movement,'" continued the speaker, "is due to the pledge which has been the bond binding us together, and without it there could have been no movement."

The Rev. H. Grattan Guinness, F. R. S., of London, Eng., who established and is at the head of Harley House the most successful missionary training school in the world, held on Friday morning a question drawer.