

Foreign Missions.

Monthly Bulletin of the Foreign Society.

The Executive Committee met in regular session, August 18, 1893, in the Mission Room in the Young Men's Christian Association Building.

FINANCES.—The receipts for the month amounted to \$4,890.78; the disbursements to \$5,622.73.

MOVEMENTS OF MISSIONARIES.—C. E. Garst and family and Miss Johnston are on their way back to Japan. They return in good health and good spirits. —M. D. Adams and family, Mrs. G. L. Wharton and three children, Dr. A. W. Hirt and family, and Miss Josepha Franklin, are preparing to start for India. Miss Franklin is a daughter of Joseph Franklin, of Bedford, Ind. Dr. Hirt goes as a medical missionary to minister to body and soul. H. H. Guy and G. D. Sellards expect to start for Japan soon after the convention in Chicago.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD.—G. N. Shishmanian writes thus: "It gives me great pleasure to record three additions to the number of saved in this field, one in Bardizag and two in Constantinople."

W. Durban reports: "Our good work at Hornsey steadily advances. Since my last report I have baptized four more converts. The whole work here is by no means flagging. At Tasso Tabernacle a number of converts are being baptized. The work done is of high order, and must bring a splendid harvest some day."

Miss Rose Sickler reports the purchase of a piece of land for the school: "The transaction is practically completed, but the deeds have not yet been stamped by the officials. We congratulate ourselves on having secured a splendid location."

T. J. Arnold reports as follows: "We are having seasons of blessings in the work here. A marked increase of spiritual life is manifested in the believers. We have established a Berean Society. Every Friday evening we meet for the study of the Scriptures. The full result of this will appear later, but the present result is very encouraging. One very interesting inquirer is a Japanese. He is a student from an American Episcopal School, and is in business in Wuhu. I hope to baptize him shortly."

James Ware writes: "The interest in our Shanghai work is growing rapidly. Every evening our chapel is filled to overflowing with attentive listeners. Many of them are regular attendants, who are beginning to take a decided interest in all that is said and done. Many who come in for the first time continue with us right through the service and are willing to have conversations with us about the doctrine at the close. We feel very much encouraged, and believe that God will greatly bless our labors for him in the great city. Still, with Paul we would continue to say; 'Brethren, pray for us.' We need your prayers every day, and the hearers of the word need them also."

Miss Oldham writes from Japan as follows: "My charity schools continue to prosper. The attendance at one has increased from seventy to one hundred. During the past month there were seventy-seven children who did not miss a day. In this Sunday-school there was an attendance of about forty-five, sixty-three being the highest number present. In my other school we have an enrollment of forty-five and an average attendance of forty. At this Sunday-school the children pour in and we can scarcely find seating room for them. We have an average attendance

of 80; the highest number present at one time was 104 children, twelve women and three men; the lowest attendance was 52 children and eight women."

In common with all benevolent institutions, the Foreign Society has suffered some. Thus far the receipts, though less than for the corresponding period last year, have been sufficient to meet the expenditures. The society has had to borrow some every year, but it has never closed a year in debt. It is hoped that the income this year will be large enough to meet all obligations and leave a handsome balance in the treasury with which to begin the new year. From October to March the receipts are very small—not one-third as much as the expenditures. The obligations amount to over \$6,000 a month. Some good friends are urging the committee to see that the society is kept out of debt. If the receipts are equal to our reasonable expectations, there will be no debt. But it should be borne in mind that men can not be discharged in China, Japan or India, as in Cincinnati or Chicago. If they are dismissed they must be brought home, and that will cost more than to sustain them till the financial stringency is over. The thing to do is to make greater sacrifices than ever, that the good work and the faithful workers may not suffer.

A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec.

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Converts on Midway.

Not all of Chicago's visitors on the Midway Plaisance will go back to their own countries in the heathendom in which so many of them came here. Prof. W. F. Black, of the Central Church of Christ, Indiana avenue and Thirty-Seventh street, has converted and baptized one of the Royal Commissioners of Japan, another who is connected with the commission, and has a round dozen Japanese, Syrians, and Turks in what he calls "the church's porch."

S. Minano, a Commissioner from Satsumabari, Nishiku, Osaka, was baptized and received into the Christian Church Sunday evening, having followed in the footsteps of I. Yoshikawa, Royal Commissioner from Sarugakuchio, Kanda, Tokio, who was baptized a few days before. Both these men are said to be high officials in Japan. Mr. Yoshikawa has been a teacher in the government schools and is a court interpreter. The Japanese Government sent nearly 400 men to the Fair. The Rev. Mr. Black says he expects many more will embrace Christianity now that their leaders have done so.

"I consider the Japanese by far the cleverest of the Orientals," said Mr. Black. "In many things they are the equals, if not the superiors, of Europeans. Both these men are highly educated and are trained thinkers. This was perhaps a help, as the highest class of Japanese are atheists. Consequently I had no other creed to combat. Both these men appear to have sought long and earnestly for a religion in which they could trust. Mr. Yoshikawa has traveled much and has spent three years in Europe. It was not until he came to America that he gave much thought to our belief, he tells me. On coming here, however, he saw our civilization; he saw to what we had attained, and that, though the youngest, we were yet the foremost of the nations. With the mind of a thinker he asked himself why it was so. He found cause and effect in the

fact that this is a Christian country. Now, he and Mr. Minano are working earnestly among their people here. They are leaders both in thought, and I hope that these two believers may leaven the whole mass.

"Yes, I sought these men out. I am in the fair grounds a great deal, and it was there I met them. Their scholarship and their shrewd knowledge of things impressed me, and I invited them to visit my church. They came again and again. Then they brought their friends and their friends brought others. I suppose the news spread along Midway, and the Turks began to come. Then the Syrians followed, until Sundays the church has begun to look quite Oriental. The Mohammedans are by far the hardest people to shake. But Dom Haguien and Shih Manian are well nigh persuaded. Nearly a score of others are in the porch of the church. I am hoping for a wholesome conversion on Midway Plaisance.—Chicago Daily Tribune of Aug. 17.

The Congress of Religions.

One of the features of the great Fair at Chicago is to be a Congress of Religions, which will shortly be convened, and the question that is being asked by those who have given the subject thought is: What is the Congress going to do when it does convene? When the representatives of every religious belief that now exists on the face of the earth get together, will they spend their time pulling different spokes out of the hub, or will they drop all unimportant differences and work for the unconverted world, showing the skeptic and the infidel that irreligion is a form of blindness and disobedience? There are certain essentials of religious belief on which all theologians are agreed. The rest is looked upon by many as being a mere matter of ceremony.

Eighteen hundred years have gone by—since Christ gave his message to the world, and it is a queer thing and, indeed, a disgraceful thing, that after all that time the clergymen have not succeeded in coming together for cooperative purposes. Spasmodic movements in the direction of Church Union have occasionally been made, but the clergymen always find a rock to split on, and matters go on much as they were before, new creeds springing up within the old ones and the theologians remaining as far apart as ever. Yet most laymen hold the opinion that the Church in its broadest sense is really one family with the same objects in view, a position that is taken by some liberal-minded clergymen, even, who deplore the divisions and dissensions that have arisen, and long for the dawning of a brighter day.

Must it always be the same? So long as the churches continue to care more for what a man believes than for what he does, so long will they continue to bang away at each other with shot and shell, instead of uniting to fire into prevailing sins. If the representatives at the great congress could make up their minds to let their creeds go by the board and pin their faith to the words of Christ, the millennial bells would soon begin to ring. A pure heart, a noble life, high aspirations, love of one's neighbor, kindly words and kindly deeds are the first requisites, and the matter of method can well be left to take care of itself. The coming of the Glad Time on earth will not be far distant when the clergy determine to cease quarreling, and the world ceases to estimate men by the standards of theological dogma.—Hamilton Herald.

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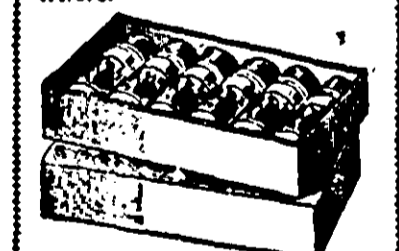
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