

Canadian Missionary Link

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THE FESTIVAL OF MISSIONS.

By Mrs. H. E. Stillwell

Said the Dictionary, to one anxious to learn the exact meaning of the word—"Festival—see Feast." Accordingly the pages were turned and "Feast" was found. "Feast—a sumptuous treat." Eureka! It was plain, the enquirer understood;... The "Festival of Missions" advertised by Century Baptist Church, Toronto, was to be a "sumptuous treat" along Missionary lines. And it was not to be simply a one-night, or even a one-day feast—it was to extend from 11 a.m., Sunday, September 28th, to 7 p.m., Sunday October 2nd. Small wonder expectations were raised to a high pitch. And, looking back, we realize that those expectations were fulfilled,—yes, literally, full-filled. There might possibly be a feeling that the "treat" was too "sumptuous,"—the partaker was left at the last with perhaps a slight sense of bewilderment,—might we say, and attack of mental indigestion?

The Program, coming first to notice, should have the first comment. Those responsible for it certainly deserve congratulations. The temptation is strong to copy it in its entirety,—it in itself would make a good report. Not only did it have an outline of the week of meetings, but on two pages were interesting items concerning Missionaries present, while two more pages were filled with facts on India and Bolivia,—a document well worth keeping where it could be readily referred to.

The Festival opened on Sunday by Century Church's new Pastor, Rev. L. S. Haverstock, in the morning, and in the evening by Rev. M. L. Orchard, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board. Both addresses were splendid.

Each day had its own subject, and one could not fail to note the continuity of thought as these subjects followed one another day after day. What more natural, after listening to "The Master's Commission" on Sunday, than that our attention should be directed on Monday to "Our Field and Task," followed on Tuesday by "Workers and Equipment,"—that in its turn naturally leading to "Methods of Service" on Wednesday?

And then the speakers! Space there is only to mention their names, but they are known and loved and the reader can readily imagine that it was indeed a "sumptuous treat" to listen on Monday to Rev. A. A. Scott, for two terms Missionary in Tunj, and to Miss Kate McLaurin, home on furlough from Avanagadda. Peculiarly apt was her description of the reclamation of a waste island on that Field,—which is as a parable.

It was well to have Bolivia's "Workers and Equipment" set before us on Tuesday by Rev. A. B. Reekie, our Pioneer in that section of our Mission work,—which, by the way, is year by year gaining a stronger hold upon our heart's affections. He was followed by Mr. Orchard who used lantern slides to illustrate the talk on India.

Those who, on Wednesday evening, listened first to Mrs. Chute and then to Miss Hatch, could not but feel that though "methods of service" were many and all important, two particularly blessed by the Master were those used in healing the sick and in making the terribly sad life of the leper a little more bearable.

On Thursday the duties of "Stewardship" were brought before us by Mr. W. C. Senior,—who better qualified? This was followed at nine o'clock by Rev. Murdoch McKenzie, D.D., a Missionary of the Presbyterian Board, with a message on "Vision" which gripped the audience.

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