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# The Missionary Leaguer.

UNITED CHURCH ARCHIVES

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." —John xiv. 15.  
 "Preach the Gospel to every creature." —Mark xvi. 15.

VOL. I. TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1895. No. 1.

## The Missionary Leaguer.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Object: To promote a united prayer for, study of, and giving to, Missions.  
 Contributions to this end gladly received.

All correspondence should be addressed to  
 F. C. STEPHENSON,  
 2nd Vice-President Cobourg District Epworth League,  
 106 YORKVILLE AVENUE, TORONTO, ONT.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1895.

### A Letter from the 2nd Vice-President of Cobourg District E. L.

To each Epworth League member in the Cobourg District:

DEAR FELLOW-WORKER,—At our District Convention held in Canton, this fall, it was evident that everyone felt that, as Christian young people banded together for "Christ and the Church" to "Look Up and Lift Up," we were not as well informed regarding our Church's missionary work as we should be; nor have we considered as earnestly as we should the great need of the helpless thousands, yes millions, of our brethren who are denied a knowledge of our Saviour, and held down by the crushing power of heathen darkness. A sense of conviction rested upon the Convention regarding our prayers and efforts for these needy ones for whom Jesus died. We felt that fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) and sixty dollars (\$60.00)—the amount of our contributions to missions—were small offerings for the past two years from a thousand Christian young men and women. There is a united feeling that we can do more, and that we will do more, both in study and prayer; and it is thought that although the majority are not able to give largely, yet there are few who cannot do a little more than they have done, even in giving.

With the hope of securing the united effort of the Cobourg District I am expected to communicate with each society, with the view of helping where I can in the establishing of systematic study of, prayer for, and giving to, missions.

Will each of you into whose hand this sheet may fall, please take it to your place of secret prayer and ask God earnestly what your duty is concerning the lost and helpless sheep that "are not of this fold," indeed, who have no fold, no Shepherd, no hope, no —, no —, no —.

After you pray, fill in the blanks and continue to make a list of the blessings that they have not, because they have not the Gospel—and then, after asking God what you shall do with the following pledge, act according as the Holy Spirit guides.

For Jesus' sake and for the sake of suffering man:

I. I PROMISE to pray at least once a day that Christians everywhere, especially the members of our E. L. of C. E., may study the needs of the heathen, looking earnestly to God for guidance and power to obey His last command—"Preach the Gospel to every creature." (MARK xviii. 15.)

II. I FURTHER PROMISE two cents each week, on which I will ask God's blessing, toward the cost of sending out and supporting a missionary under the direction of the Methodist Church of Canada, to represent the members of the E. L. of C. E. of the Cobourg District, who cannot go to the foreign field themselves.

Name .....

Date ..... P.O. ....

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." (MATT. xxv. 40.)

If any individual member or any missionary committee of a League would like to secure missionary literature, I have a stock of books which I shall be glad to lend.

I SHALL be glad to assist in any way I can those wishing to purchase a "Missionary Library" for private use or for League work. Some Leagues are using and recommending very highly a "Missionary Library."

MANY of the most interesting books sold by the Methodist Book Rooms are accounts of the opening up of the world to Christianity, and thus to commerce and civilization. It is safe to say that a person is not intelligently informed as to the world's progress, let alone as a Christian, who does not read up-to-date missionary literature.

FRED. C. STEPHENSON,  
 106 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto.

December 1st, 1895.

N.B.—Rev. S. T. Bartlett and Mr. Dell (our district President and Secretary) have already written you regarding this work. All the money paid into each League is to be sent to the District Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Wickett, Port Hope, Ontario.

### The Missionary Paper

GIVEN BY MISS S. HAWKINS AT THE COBOURG DISTRICT CONVENTION, HELD AT CANTON, SEPTEMBER 17TH.

LET us take a glance over the great world field, and then let us consider what we as Christian young people can do in the missionary cause.

First, then, half the world, or more than 700,000,000 people, have never even heard of Christ. There are more heathen in the world to-day than ever before. There are more increasing every day, faster than we are gaining converts.

Look at Africa. The one word that describes that dark continent is "slavery." Its area is equal to North and South America combined, its population is 200,000,000, or more than three times that of the United States. They have only one ordained missionary to every 300,000 people, or one missionary to a population equal to Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Guelph and Brantford. The liquor traffic and the slave trade are the great curses of Africa

"Is it nothing to you, oh, ye Christians,  
That Africa walks by night,  
While Christians at home deny them  
The blessed Gospel light?  
The cry goes up this morning  
From a heart-broken race of slaves,  
And seven hundred every hour  
Sink into Christless graves."

Look at India. The word that describes it is "crisis." Its area is equal to one-half the Dominion of Canada, and its population is 290,000,000, or fifty-eight times that of Canada, or one-fifth the population of the world. There is just one ordained minister to 300,000, *i.e.*, one minister to a population equal to Toronto and Montreal. There are 21,000,000 widows in India, 80,000 of them under ten years of age. There are more Christian workers in New York City than in all India. If each person in India could represent a letter in our English Bible, it would take seventy Bibles to represent the heathen population, while the Christian population could be represented by the Prophecy of Isaiah. The people holding hands would reach three times around the globe at the equator.

"Is it nothing to you, oh, ye Christians,  
That in India's far-away land  
There are thousands of people pleading  
For the touch of the Saviour's hand?  
They are groping and trying to find Him,  
And while He is willing to save,  
Eight hundred precious souls each hour  
Are sinking to Christless graves."

Look at China. The word that describes that country is "death." It is larger in area than all Europe put together. It has a population equal to five times that of the United States. Would you like to see them pass before you thirty every minute? Then you must sit, never tiring nor sleeping for twenty years. A Chinaman says: "China has been a hell ever since you sent us opium." There is one ordained minister to every 500,000.

"Is it nothing to you, oh, ye Christians,  
That thousands of beings to-day  
In the heathen darkness of China  
Are rapidly passing away?  
They have never heard the story  
Of the loving Lord who saves,  
And seven hundred every hour  
Sink into Christless graves."

Now, what can we, as Christian young people, do in this great missionary cause?

First. We can read missionary literature and find out what has been done and what is still to be done in heathen lands. When we read what the greatest Christian workers say about this cause, and see that they regard it as the *greatest enterprise* of the Church, and when we think of those who have given their lives for it, we shall feel that we must go heartily to work in it too. But, above all, let us read the Bible and see what it says about this subject and how many promises there are in regard to the heathen.

Second. We can pray for the heathen and for the missionaries. It is urged strongly that every society throughout this district should select some missionary in whom they are especially interested, and pray at each meeting for

that missionary as well as in private prayer. Think what a source of strength it must be to those hard working, self-sacrificing men and women to feel that they are borne up to God's throne by earnest young people. Oh, do not let us forget to pray for the missionaries and for the heathen in public, in private and in family prayer.

Third. We can give towards this cause. Let me state a few facts in regard to giving. Only one-half the Protestant church members of America give anything. One cent a week from S. S. scholars alone would equal the gifts of the entire Church. One cent a day per church member would ten-fold multiply the present gifts. A class of poor servant girls in New York give \$1,500 yearly from their scanty earnings. Thirty-five souls were brought to Christ by a native, supported by a class of seven boys (\$30). One stenographer, by her gifts, has gained more than 1,000 souls in India. One woman, living in a tenement house, gave \$700, and lived on the remaining \$300. We sing, "Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all," and then give fifty cents to Christ and crown ourselves with a five dollar hat without a thought.

Fourth. We can live for this cause. A missionary says: "Account for it as we may, what Christians are at home the missionaries are abroad, neither better nor worse. If you are living comfortable, easy-going lives at home; if you have little love for God and the souls of men; if your Christian life is spotted and inconsistent; then you may look across the water and be afraid that some of your missionaries, too, are living comfortable, easy-going lives; that they, too, have but little love for God and the heathen around them. But if, on the other hand, you are living faithful, self-denying lives at home, yielding yourselves unto God to do His will, and walking before Him in simplicity and joyfulness, then you may be hopeful that your missionaries, too, are faithfully serving Him among the heathen." If this is true, and I believe it is, ours is a great responsibility.

Fifth. We can go ourselves and tell the glad news. But you say, "I must wait for a special call to go." Well, there is a special call. The heathen's need, that is a very special call. To every true, tender-hearted Christian, the sight of a great need is a great call for help. It was so with our Master, it must be so with us as far as we truly represent Him. Then, the Master's command was a special call given to His disciples. We are His disciples now, and as long as the command is not fully carried out we must be found doing it. Do not let us say we do not believe in missions. We might as well say at once that we do not believe in doing what He tells us. This has been such a highly-favored community. Our fathers before us knew and served God humbly and consistently. Our whole lives have been surrounded by Christian influences. We have had a goodly heritage. Surely God wants some one of us to go and carry to others the blessings that we have enjoyed so richly. It is a serious matter, and one that each of us must settle for himself before God, and God will lead us right; do not let us be afraid to trust Him. But let us remember that it would be a dreadful thing for Christ to come and find us here when He wants us in China or Africa.

"Is it nothing to you, oh, ye Christians!  
Will ye pass by and say—  
It is nothing, we cannot help it?  
You can give, or go, or pray;  
You can save your souls from blood-guiltiness,  
For in lands that you never trod  
The heathen are dying every day—  
And dying without God."

## Christmas Exchanges and Christmas Gifts.

"A FAIR exchange is no robbery" is a maxim which is very seldom disputed, but let us be careful that we do not call these "fair exchanges" "Christmas gifts," lest we be found guilty of robbing God. Not that it is robbing God to exchange presents with our friends, even at Christmas time (without we give them that which belongs to God). If we call them "Christmas gifts"—gifts commemorative or typical of God's great Christmas gift to us—they should be expensive, should cost us a great deal, and should be given to the poor and needy, hoping nothing in return; otherwise we may rob God of the true meaning of the "Christmas gift."

Jesus gave His most costly gift to the poor and for the needy. Our exchanging of Christmas gifts will be far from satisfactory if we do not remember Him "who gave himself for us." He does not need our gifts, but He allows us to show our gratitude by accepting our presents to His needy ones as gifts to himself. "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; I was in prison and ye came unto me. . . . Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." (Matt. xxvi. 35-40.) What has been His gift to us? What shall we give and to whom shall we give it?

Jesus brake and gave the loaves and fishes to His disciples that they might give to the fainting multitude. Doubtless the disciples and their special friends could have looked upon the supply as scant enough for themselves. How disappointed Jesus would have been. They could not have endured the hungry look of the perishing multitude and the disappointed reproving look of their Lord, who "had compassion on the multitude." They obeyed and gave to the multitude. Did they suffer loss? No, theirs was a double feast. How they must have enjoyed supplying the need of those famished brethren, under the smile of their loving Lord. Ours is the privilege of breaking the bread of life to the heathen and thus establishing a universal feast.

Jesus will be present at His birthday feast, December 25th, 1895. We sincerely hope that no one in our Christian land will want for Christmas cheer. But we fear that the "Lord of all earth" will weep over those who have not even heard that "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given": "The Prince of Peace."

## A Liberal Offer.

*The following is copied from "The Missionary Outlook":*

THE object of the publisher of *Outlook* is not to make money. If it were, the price would be advanced forthwith. The object is to spread information, increase interest, and awaken enthusiasm throughout the Church on missionary lines. What we want is a large circulation—to get the paper into every Methodist family, if possible. To hasten this desirable result we offer the *Outlook* from November, 1895, till the end of 1896 (fourteen months in all), for the regular club rate—TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. This is almost giving the paper away. Furthermore, we will also send a free copy for one year to any person sending us a club of eight NEW subscribers. *These offers are open only until end of December.* Will all our readers who are interested in Methodist missions kindly help in this matter.

## Cycle of Prayer.

THE General Missionary Society, the Woman's Missionary Society and the Department of Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools are arranging a sixteen-page leaflet, "Cycle of Prayer for Missions," containing subjects for prayer, embracing all covered by the Watch Cry of the Students' Volunteer Movement, "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation." It is expected the leaflet will be ready before Christmas, and the price will not exceed five cents per copy. While suitable for all ages, a gift of one of these leaflets will afford a good opportunity for Sunday School teachers, Mission Band and Missionary Department leaders to foster an intelligent interest on the subject of missions among our young people.

## Missionary Volunteers of Toronto Conference.

AT the last session of the Toronto Conference of the Methodist Church, twenty young men were received on probation for the ministry. Each of these asserted at his respective District Meeting that he believed that he was called of God to preach the Gospel. But owing to the fact that the number of men exceeded the number of circuits, six were placed on the list of reserve.

In the same Conference there are about a dozen ministers and probationers who have signed a declaration asserting their desire to become foreign missionaries, four of whom are ordained ministers in full connection.

Missionaries in heathen lands are saying to us, "Brethren, come to our help," and dying millions are crying, "Come and save us before we perish." Indeed, the whole world is ready for Christ's ambassadors. We believe that the same God who said to the twenty probationers, "Go, preach," and to the volunteers, "Witness in the uttermost parts of the earth," is calling upon the Methodist Church of Toronto Conference to make provision for the sending of these missionary volunteers to the foreign field. The Head of the Church does not animate young men with His spirit, zeal and love to mock them; but the extravagance of a selfish Church frustrates His purpose.

Fully assured that the Holy Ghost, who said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them," is saying to the Epworth Leagues and to all Christians in our Church, "Deny yourselves; pray and plan that these young men may be sent to the benighted millions," the volunteers have formed a committee, and have united to work and pray, in order that one at least of their number may be sent to China next summer under the direction of the General Board. In order that this may be accomplished, it will be necessary to collect about \$2,300 to cover the fare, expenses and salary for the first year. That seems a large sum, but we are assured of success, for the Lord has called us and is with us. Every Christian to whose eyes this may come is earnestly requested to pray at least once a day that the necessary funds may be speedily forthcoming; and everyone desiring to assist by way of contribution is directed to write to the Secretary-Treasurer, who will at once acknowledge the amount received and deposit it in the bank.

The volunteers wish it to be distinctly understood that their project is in perfect harmony with the General Missionary Society, and that all contributions to this special fund are to be over and above former givings to the General Fund. For further information, address the Rev. J. D. Fitzpatrick, Secy.-Treas., East Toronto, or Rev. Gilbert Robinson, B.A., Chairman of Committee, Lemonville, Ont.

### Notes from Cobourg District, E. L. of C. E.

IN our next issue we hope to have a letter from each Society. We take this opportunity of asking the secretary of each League or anyone interested (say, the president of the Missionary Committee) to please write a letter, telling us about your missionary work. Please state the names of the members of your Missionary Committee.

#### MEMBERS OF MISSIONARY COMMITTEES.

BALTIMORE.—Mrs. (Rev.) M. E. Wilson, Chairman of Committee; Misses Carrie Staples and Bertha Mitchell. League members—23 active, 13 associate.

CAMBORNÆ.—Mrs. W. H. Gillespie, President of Missionary Department. League members—19 active, 22 associate.

CANTON.—Miss Gertrude Hawkins, President of Missionary Department; Misses Kinsman and Haw, Mr. B. F. Peters. Members of Society—26 active, 3 associate.

COBOURG (Division Street).—Miss Brooking, Chairman of Missionary Committee; Miss Minaker, President of Missionary Department; Misses L. Harvey, Barker, H. Payne, L. Woodruff, Hight, Tifford. League members—13 active, 25 associate.

COBOURG (King Street).—Mr. W. H. Hopper, Chairman Missionary Committee; Miss Earl, President of Missionary Department. Do not know the number of members in this League, but remember that they had the largest delegation of any League at the District Convention.

COBOURG JUNIOR E. L. OF C. E. (King Street).—"The Busy Bees." Miss Hattie Haisley, Chairman of Committee; Misses Vallie Mimms, Maddie Mimms, Orpah Ibbotson, Eva Moffatt, Katie Brokenshire, Chloe Barkell, Mabel Dawson, Ethel Pearse.

PLAINVILLE.—Miss Phena Westington, Chairman of Missionary Committee; Misses Etta Nurse, Edna Kent; Messrs. Nicholas Dodge, Harry Taylor, Thos. Perkins, Alfred Nurse. League members—12 active, 20 associate.

PORT HOPE.—Mr. Thos. Wickett, Chairman of Missionary Committee. League members—77 active, 29 associate.

WELCOME.—Miss Ethel Thorn, Chairman of Missionary Committee; Mr. T. Roberts, Miss M. Runnalls, Mr. Howard Runnalls. League members—25 active, 3 associate.

WESLEYVILLE.—League members—20 active, 5 associate.

As yet we have no statistics from the following: Garden Hill, Elizabethville, Bethel, Cobourg Junior E. L. of C. E., Zion, Gore's Landing, Harwood, Fenella, Bethesda, Centreton.

We hope that we shall get a letter from each of the leagues mentioned above and from any in the Cobourg District which we have not mentioned, telling us that our figures must all be increased. We would be delighted if each league would report a missionary committee consisting of at least one member with whom we may correspond, and to whom we may send copies of the MISSIONARY LEAGUER as it is published.

## Missionary and other Religious Literature.

The Christless Nations. By Bishop J. M. Thoburn, D.D.	\$1 00
A New Programme of Missions. A Movement to make the Colleges in all Lands centres of Evangelization. By L. D. Wishard and Rev. R. S. Storrs	0 50
Missionary Landscapes in the Dark Continent. By Rev. James Johnston, A.T.S.	1 50
The Religions of the World. By Rev. Principal Grant, net.	0 50
The Macedonian Cry. A Plea for Missions. By Rev. John Lathern, D.D.	0 70
Christian Missions in the Nineteenth Century. By Rev. Elbert S. Todd, D.D.	0 75
Gist. A Hand-book of Missionary Information. Compiled and edited by Lily Ryder Gracey	0 60
Medical Missions: Their Place and Power. By John Lowe, F.R.S.C.E.	0 90
Foreign Missions after a Century. By Rev. James S. Dennis, D.D.	1 50
James Calvert; or, From Dark to Dawn in Fiji	0 50
Samuel Crowther. The Slave Boy who became Bishop of the Niger	0 50
Griffith John. Founder of the Hankow Mission, Central China	0 50
Madagascar. Its Missionaries and Martyrs	0 50
John Williams. The Martyr Missionary of Polynesia	0 50
God's World, and other Sermons. By B. Fay Mills	1 25
The Story of John G. Paton. By Rev. James Paton, B.A.	1 50
The Acts of the Holy Spirit. New book by A. T. Pierson, D.D.	0 75
Successward. By Edward W. Bok	1 00
The Two St. Johns of the New Testament. Dr. Stalker's new book	1 20
The Kindergarten of the Church. By Mary J. Chisholm Foster	1 00
The New Life in Christ. By Joseph Agar Beet, D.D.	1 50
For Days of Youth. A Bible Text and Talk for the Young for every day of the Year. By Rev. Chas. A. Salmond, M.A.	1 50
The Mission of Christianity. By Rev. Frank Ballard	1 25
At the Place Which is Called Calvary. By Rev. Edwin H. Burgess	0 75
My Cross and Thine. By John M. Bamford	1 25
The Gospel of the Kingdom. By C. H. Spurgeon	1 50
Evangelistic Work. By Arthur T. Pierson, D.D.	1 25

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