

SUBJECT FOR THE MONTH: JAPAN.



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The Rev. Mizutaro Takagi.

Holder of the Japanese Scholarship of
Victoria University.

REV. MIZUTARO TAKAGI was born at Nagawo in the Shizuoka prefecture, on May 20th, in the first year of the Ganji era (A.D. 1864). At the age of four he began to attend a private school. This beginning of his education was in the style of Old Japan—including training in the ancient and stately etiquette of the land, and, above all, careful study of the teachings of Confucius, with their thousand-fold inculcation, both in general forms and in particular historical instances, of filial piety, respect for elders, sincerity of heart and faithfulness to duties. Before he was ten years old he had read, in the original Chinese, the Four Sacred Books of Confucius.

Then, when he went from that private school to a public school, there came a great change in the method of his education. As he himself would say, "God, in His mercy, had kept Japan in seclusion until the day of Spanish Inquisitions, of English 'Hell-fire Clubs', of Anglo Saxon slave holdings was past. When Western civilization had built up its literatures, had made its great advance in science, had chained steam and electricity as servants of commerce—when, too, Western Christianity had attained to a truly missionary spirit—then, and not till then, God allowed Japan to be opened to the influences of Western civilization." This time had now come. The Mikado's government had already been established in Tokio, and the reorganization of the Japanese school system in large measure effected. So that the public school to which Mr. Takagi now went was, in its methods, not greatly different from our own, in fact, there was probably less difference then than now, for since then in Japan American educational ideas have been largely superseded by German.

At thirteen years of age he left home and went to an academy about fifty miles distant. With this, too, the old religious atmosphere of his early life ceased to be about him, and he was increasingly influenced by the purely intellectual and anti-religious spirit which Western influences were

arousing in Japan. Next he went to one of the normal schools which had been established for the training of teachers, and completed the higher normal course about twelve years ago. Then he was appointed inspector of public schools. Soon after this appointment his attention was called to the teachings of Christianity. For about a year he studied the question, and those who know him intimately will understand with what keenness of intellect and conscientiousness of spirit he conducted that study. The influences on either side were strangely varied—on the one side, a revival of Confucianism and a corresponding Renaissance of those Chinese classics of which he had long been a student, the influence of utilitarian and naturalistic

teachings from Europe to whose dissemination Mr. Fukuzawa gave the weight of his great influence; not to speak of the offence which a patriotic citizen and official of Japan naturally felt at religious teachers who came in from outside and called the Japanese "heathens," on the other side, a perception of the influence of Christianity in shaping European history, and in influencing that English literature which he was studying: a study of Christian Apologetics; a careful study of the four Gospels (especially that of John), and of the Epistle to the Romans; and added to this the power of a deep bereavement which came into his life at that time of crisis. Finally the decision was made and he was baptized as a Christian.



REV. MIZUTARO TAKAGI,
*Missionary to Japan, supported by Barrle District
Epworth Leagues.*

Within a very few months after his baptism, Rev. Mr. Hiraiwa began to press him to enter the Christian ministry. To do so involved the greatest self sacrifice, it meant loss of his oldest and dearest friends, loss of social position, and no small financial loss. For two years he fought out that question. The pressure of what seemed a Divine call settled upon him. He was particularly touched by Paul's exclamation, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." At last this battle also was decided. In 1889 he entered our ministry as a probationer and at the same time he entered our college at Tokio, Dr. Cochrane being Dean of the Theological Department. He completed the theological course and graduated in 1893, and was ordained in 1894. During his last year at college and the two subsequent

years he was pastor of the Azabu church in Tokio, which had the largest membership of any of our churches in Japan, and was self-supporting.

On the founding of the Japanese scholarship in Victoria College, Mr. Takagi was selected by the Japanese Conference to hold it. He arrived at Victoria in October, 1895, and has been with us until now.

Of Mr. Takagi's record at Victoria College there is little need to speak. He has won the respect of all who know him, not only by exactness of scholarship and width of information but also by still higher characteristics—a justness and impartiality of judgment, found almost never in young men and not often in old—and a truly loyal and sincere Christian spirit. We earnestly hope that on his return to Japan, he will find a position and a support, which will afford adequate scope alike to his intellectual power and to his devoted Christian spirit.

G. J. BLEWETT.

Mr. Takagi is an active Campaigner, having in 1896 visited St. Thomas District with Mr. Blewett, in the summer of 1897, he visited Bradford District with the Rev. D. Norman, and during last Christmas holidays he did Campaign work in the Barrie District. The Leagues of the Barrie District have secured from the General Board of Missions the privilege of supporting Mr. Takagi in the work of our Church when he returns to Japan.

Progressive Programme for March.

SUBJECT. JAPAN.
(Use a map of Japan.)

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.

Hymn 187.

Prayer (special prayer for Japan, our workers and work there).

BIBLE READING.

Japan Its geographical position, form of government, climate, products. (See school geography and map.)

OUR MISSION WORK IN JAPAN—When founded, its growth, number of missionaries, membership. (See Dr. Sutherland's article in March CAMPAIGNER.)

EDUCATIONAL—"Life-work of a Native Japanese Christian." Mr. H. Muramatzu, manager of our Anglo-Japanese College. (See October *Outlook*, 1897.)

"Historical Sketch of the Educational Work in Japan," by Rev. John Scott. (See January and February *Missionary Outlook*.)

Life sketch of Rev. Mizutaro Takagi, now at Victoria University. (See March CAMPAIGNER, page 2.)

School Work (report of the W.M.S.).

Hymn 184.

EVANGELISTICAL—"Hindrances to Christianity in Japan," by Rev. M. Takagi. (See *Guardian*, Jan. 26th, 1898).

The Methodist Church in Japan, its Work and Workers. (See Missionary Report, 1896-97.)

The Latest Missionary to Japan, Rev. D. Norman. (See letter March CAMPAIGNER, page 3.)

MEDICAL—Our Pioneer Medical Missionary in Japan. (Dec. 1897 CAMPAIGNER.) Ten minutes for questions and discussion regarding the work.

The Missionary Reports and *Outlook* may be had from the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

The MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER may be had from F. C. Stephenson, 568 Parliament Street, Toronto.

Recommended Reading on Japan—"The Gist of Japan," by R. B. Peery, A.M., Ph.D. "Japan, Its People and Missions," by Jesse Page. Japan, "The Land of the Morning," by Saunby. Our Work Leaflet on Japan, and Monthly Missionary Letter. (Room 20, Wesley Buildings).

(Ask your Sunday School or Epworth League Librarian for books on Japan.)

The Gist of Japan.*

Old Japan is rapidly disappearing, the Japan of to day which is rising out of old superstitions and customs, is attracting the attention of the world from a political and national standpoint. The Church is trying to lay the true foundation of national strength and development by introducing that 'Righteousness which exalteth a nation,' whose God is the Lord.

Dr. Peery has told in a delightfully comprehensive way in his "Gist of Japan" the history, manners and customs of the people who, he says, from their politeness have been called "the Frenchmen of the Orient." The information given is reliable and accurate; the result of much faithful study and research.

To the student of missions the book is invaluable, as it is written out of a wide experience in mission work, and a keen perception of the needs of Japan and the outlook for its evangelization.

Those who are interested in Japan will find the book very entertaining and instructive and can hardly fail to recognize that Japan's need in her changing conditions is the Christ-life for her people.

The Work in Japan.

Nearly a quarter of a century has passed since Canadian Methodism sent its first missionaries to Japan. In 1873 Drs. Macdonald and Cochran set out for the Land of the Rising Sun, where, by the blessing of God, they were enabled to found a mission that developed steadily from the beginning. In some years the numerical increase was small, but there has been no retrograde movement. Every forward step was thoughtfully taken, and our missionaries in that country, while alert to adopt improved methods, have never found it necessary to retrace their steps, or undo anything that had once been done. Hence, there have been but slight vicissitudes in the history of the mission none of those rapid or violent changes which endanger stability. The missionaries were more concerned for the quality of converts than for mere numbers, and all possible care was taken to prevent the admission of unsuitable persons into the Church. This has had much to do with the peace that has always prevailed, and the steady growth that has characterized the work.

The most important epoch thus far was the organization of an Annual Conference during the visit of the General Secretary in 1889. This was felt to be a very important step. It gave a higher status to the work, and introduced new and more intimate relations between the native and foreign workers. It was felt that the undertaking was no longer an experiment. The Methodist Church has entered Japan to stay, and its policy was being shaped on the lines of coming autonomy so soon as the native Church would be in a position to assume that weighty responsibility.

Another important step, of more recent date, was the formation of a Home Missionary Society. This was chiefly the work of the native Church, though having the cordial concurrence of the foreign missionaries. For several years its work was to aid some of the missions already established, but at the Conference of 1896 the bold step of what might be called a foreign mission was taken. That is, the Japan Conference resolved, with the concurrence of the General Board, to establish a mission in the northern island of Yesso (also called Hokkaido), the expense to be

* *The Gist of Japan*. By R. B. PEERY, A.M., Ph.D. Price \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Company, or Methodist Book Room, Toronto, Ont.

borne by the native Missionary Society. This project was carried out at the Conference of 1897, by stationing a native missionary at an important centre in the new territory.

Another forward step will shortly be taken, namely, the construction of a discipline for the native Church. This work will engage the attention of the coming Annual Conference, and will be greatly aided by the presence of the General Superintendent. At the recent session of the General Board of Missions, a resolution of the Japan Conference was read requesting that a deputation from the Board might visit them in 1898. The chief reasons assigned were that a discipline for the native Church was being formulated; also, that matters touching the future of the work in Japan would come before the next General Conference, and hence it was most important that consultation should be had with representatives of the home Church, so that in all matters respecting discipline or future movements, there might be full understanding in advance of General Conference action. The Board concurred very heartily in the request of the Japanese brethren, and the Rev. Dr. Carman was unanimously chosen to visit the Japan Conference in 1898. His thorough knowledge of Methodist discipline and Church usage will be of great value at the present stage of our work in Japan, and we anticipate many beneficial results from his official visit.

As far back as 1884 a school was opened in Tokyo, chiefly with a view to the training of a native ministry, and has been carried on ever since. The difficulties to be overcome were neither few nor small, and the attendance fluctuated from time to time, but under present management an era of unusual prosperity has dawned, and there is now an attendance of nearly 300 students. The importance of this institution as a training school for the native ministry can hardly be overestimated. A time will come, sooner perhaps than we expect, when the work of evangelizing Japan will devolve entirely upon a native ministry, as it is most important that the religious guides and teachers of the future be thoroughly and wisely trained. The Methodist Church in Japan consists, at the present time, of one Annual Conference, comprising five Districts and twenty five Circuits or Missions. The working force is as follows:

Foreign missionaries	- - - -	7
Native missionaries (ordained)	- - - -	21
" " (probationers)	- - - -	6
" evangelists and helpers	- - - -	41
Membership	- - - -	2260
Sunday Schools	- - - -	68
Teachers	- - - -	147
Scholars	- - - -	2180

Besides the foregoing, the Woman's Missionary Society has fifteen missionaries in Japan, with important and successful schools at Tokyo, Shidzuoka, and Kofu.

Many of the young people are interested in knowing what it costs to support a native or foreign missionary in Japan. For the information of such, we would say that all the native workers are paid in Japanese currency, which is worth about half the same amount in gold. Evangelists, who, for the most part, are students in training, receive from 72 yen upwards. Probationers for the ministry (if single men), from 150 yen. Ordained missionaries (married men), from 300 to 600 yen. Within the past half-dozen years the yen has fallen in value from 75 cents to about 50 cents, while the price of most of the necessaries of life has risen more than 50 per cent. It may be necessary, therefore, in the near future, to increase the stipends of native workers very considerably.

A. SUTHERLAND.

To the Epworth Leaguers of the Bradford District.

TOKIO, JAPAN, Dec. 2nd, 1897.

DEAR FELLOW-WORKERS,—In answer to the request that I made in my letter written three months ago, some of you have sent to me reports of the conditions and work of your Leagues, which have been very encouraging and helpful to me. I was glad to know that in some of the Leagues the Associate members spoke in the consecration meeting and that in some about 75 per cent. of the entire membership were using the *Cycle of Prayer* daily; why should not 100 per cent. use it? From some I learned that Leaguers who were Christians years ago when I first had the privilege of preaching to them have not yet grown out of the Associate ranks. I would say to them, "Wherefore let us cease to speak of the first principles of Christ and press on unto perfection." Let us all, both as Associate and Active, say with St. Paul, "One thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the good unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." From some of the Leagues I learned nothing, for their letters have not reached me yet.

I suppose that most of you will know before this reaches you that I have been appointed by the Council here to Kanazawa, a city on the west coast of Japan. Sometime in January, perhaps about the middle, I expect to go there. My address will be Kanazawa, Kaga, Japan. In the meantime I am studying the language here in Tokio under the direction of one of the best Japanese teachers obtainable.

I find it possible to do personal work among young men even though I can speak very little of the language as yet.

Students in particular are very anxious to improve their English and come to see me two or three times a week and I improve my Japanese and they their English while we talk on Christianity and other things. I have a Bible-class which meets at nine o'clock on Sunday morning in one of our churches over three miles from here. I began with five, it has increased to eight. Some of them know very little English, and I, needless to say, know very little Japanese, but I supplied them with both English and Japanese Testaments, and sometimes when some of them do not understand me the others will interject a translation of what I have said. Their questions would seem strange to you no doubt. One, a very bright fellow, who has been a worshipper of idols, asked me one day in class if I believed that the true God was in heaven. I told him that I did. "Well, is it really true?" he asked. I did my best to explain the relation of God our heavenly Father to mankind. Then I inquired of him why he had asked, and he said that he had heard a Japanese gentleman say so, but he wanted to know from some one who understood Christianity. I trust that some seed is going into good ground such as shall bring forth an abundant harvest.

In regard to our missionary work in Japan, I would like to say a few words. On the steamer there were several missionaries of other denominations returning to their work in Japan. They have known something of our work here for years and told me that our missionary work in Japan has been and is one of the most successful in the land. I was congratulated on being a member of the Canadian Methodist Mission. I take it for granted that those who spoke in that way meant something. I have heard from outsiders since I came to Tokio very encouraging things about our work. What I have heard at the

monthly meetings of our preachers here, and what I have seen myself, should give us cause for gratitude to God, and for still more earnest consecration to work.

True, there are great difficulties. A few weeks ago the leading Salvation Army in Tokio said that Japan was the hardest field that the Army had yet entered. We must possess our souls in patience, but we must also possess the land for Christ. "We are well able to go up and possess the land." "Our sufficiency is of God."

Let me give you a quotation from a Japanese newspaper which is very influential. It has an English department. In an article on Buddhism it said, "The great Hongwanyi sect, enjoying imperial and other high patronages, has been for several centuries past a social and political power in the land. The sect has been considered a mighty means of defence against Christianity and other alien faiths. This body so huge, so highly privileged, so rich in money and patronages, now shows distinct symptoms of mortal disease. The 'Mountain' seems to shake to the very bottom. The Honorable High Pontiff is known to be a confirmed profligate. The debt of the sect now amounts to over million yen, and it is increasing rapidly. Will it stand the shock at this time of religious skepticism? The final test for Japanese Buddhism has come." So writes a gifted Japanese scholar, the editor of a secular paper. I might give other quotations from secular Japanese papers showing that the old religions and the old conditions will no longer satisfy the needs of the people. Set over against this the fact that under the blessing of God our work here has been very successful during the past year, that other evangelical churches, with one sad exception, have had a prosperous year, that the "Tract Societies" for 1896 reported the largest circulation and sales since the work began, and shall we not thank God and take courage saying, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us."

When this reaches you, perchance you will soon go forth, if indeed you have not gone, into the new year. Go as those who are commissioned by High Heaven for a great task. Greater responsibilities are ours if we follow faithfully. Greater deeds will be accomplished, grander thoughts, higher inspirations will be revealed to us. So with a purpose strong and serious, full of faith and hope. we shall live and labour until life shall not be reckoned by years, and a glorious victory shall have been won.

Wishing you all the happiest and best New Year of your lives, I am your brother and yoke-fellow,

D. NORMAN.

[We have an excellent photogravure of Rev. D. Norman, B.A. It is nicely engraved on a 9 x 11 inch highly finished cardboard, with beautifully tinted border. Send us 25c. and the addresses of two of your friends, anywhere in North America, and we will send the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER to each of them and the picture of Rev. D. Norman, who wrote the above letter from Japan to you.—ED.]

Items of News.

I FIND a news column very hard to prepare. If I were to attempt to tell of the news of the Forward Movement for Missions, all along the line, I would need a paper as large as the *Christian Guardian*, and even then the half would not be told.

REV. H. T. FERGUSON, President of the Collingwood District Epworth League, writes very encouragingly of his visits to the Leagues on his district. He says the Forward

Movement is organized "in the great majority of the Leagues."

MANY of our subscribers have written asking if the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER can be sent to the separate addresses of club subscribers at the club rate of ten cents per year in clubs of ten. Yes, to any address in America.

MR. O. B. CRYDERMAN, President of Bowmanville District Epworth League, writes: "The Bowmanville District is taking hold of the two Forward Movements (for Missions and for Bible study) well. I feel confident in raising \$500 this year. Our district has been visited throughout by two who were appointed by the Executive to bring before each League the two movements."

IF any workers feel the need of help with their Missionary Department, we strongly advise them to write to their superior officers, either district or Conference missionary vice-presidents. These officers are always ready to help; they make a special study of methods of holding meetings and all that pertains to conducting the Missionary Department of the Epworth League.

MISS M. DE WOLFE, Halifax, N.S., Missionary Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Conference Epworth League, is sending circular letters, full of good suggestions, to every League in the Nova Scotia Conference. Miss De Wolfe recognizes how much good may be done through correspondences, and offers to help any Leagues in the Nova Scotia Conference who need assistance, if they will write to her.

THE colleges, from Columbia College, New Westminster, on the Pacific Coast (from which we received, a few days ago, a very encouraging letter), to Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., in the far east, are centres of prayer and study for missions. The students of Wesley College, Winnipeg; Victoria College and Trinity Medical College, Toronto; Albert College, Belleville; Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal; Stanstead College, Stanstead, P.Q.; Columbia College, New Westminster, B.C.; Mount Allison, Sackville, N.B., are now meeting in preparation for the important work of helping our young people during the coming summer in the Forward Movement for Missions.

MR. JOSEPH FIFE, West Essa, President of the Bradford Epworth League, after saying that he will be at the Toronto Conference Epworth League Convention (which example we hope every president will be able to follow), tells us that he and the Missionary Vice-President, Mr. C. W. Henry, of Thornton, have the whole Bradford District thoroughly organized for the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions, except one circuit, and that they will visit soon. He also informs us that they have organized new Leagues, and did not forget to start subscription lists for the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER. When their missionary, Bro. Daniel Norman, B.A., whose letter appears in this number, sees the above item of news, will he not feel strong in the prayers of the Bradford District Leaguers?

ONE of our old Campaigners, who is doing faithful missionary work in Algoma District, writes: "I am in correspondence with Parry Sound and Bracebridge Districts as to a union of force. The plan is to get all the Leagues into line, if possible, and have the Executive of each district meet about the time of the annual District Meeting in May, and appoint the three missionary vice-presidents and the three district chairmen a committee to meet at Conference and act. How does this strike you?" Allow me to say

that this kind of planning on the part of the pastors and district officers will be supported loyally by the Leagues on these districts; in fact, the Leagues on these districts will be a grand example to many of our city Leagues. We have heard from Bracebridge, Huntsville and other Leagues; they are doing grand work.

HARRISTON, ONT., January 31st, 1898.

DEAR BROTHER,—We held our week of services under the League's Forward Movement. Then, after an interval of two weeks, we were visited by the Misses Hall, evangelists, of Guelph, and as a result we had nearly two hundred conversions, for which we praise God. Our League has nearly doubled in interest and numbers by the effort.

Yours in His work, J. A. JACKSON.

NASSAGAWEYA, ONT., January 28th, 1898.

DEAR BROTHER,—Your card received. F. Jacombe and myself have arranged to have Leagues visited on the District. *Re* Forward Movement and support of missions, will be glad to arrange for one or more Campaigners to visit the District after the examinations, if suitable arrangements can be made.

Yours sincerely, R. W. SCANLAN,
Sec. Guelph Dist. E. L.

ORILLIA, ONT., January 30th, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—We have about thirty pledged members, and a large number who, though as yet they have not taken the pledge, are praying and paying for missions. We are looking forward to great things along missionary lines. Our Committee are all alive, and are bringing information before the Society at every opportunity.

Yours in the work, ANNIE CAMERON,
Vice-Pres. Missionary Department.

WASHINGTON, ONT., January 20th, 1898.

DEAR BRO.,—Would you be good enough to send me fifteen or twenty copies of the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER, back numbers. I want to introduce it in our League. If you have some with the Two-Cents-a-Week Plan explained, etc., so much the better. Have just organized with over twenty-five subscribers at two cents a week. I now want them to come in touch with the CAMPAIGNER. If any cost attached, let me know.

Ever yours, F. W. HOLLINRAKE.

WALKERTON, January 29th, 1898.

DEAR BROTHER,—The following resolution was passed at our late Convention:

"Resolved, That we, the members of the Walkerton District Epworth League Convention, do heartily endorse the plans of the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions as they have been presented, and recommend that each Society and each member be urged to adopt its methods. We recommend further that each League, having been thoroughly canvassed by its Missionary Committee, report to the District Missionary Vice-President the amount they expect to raise within the year, and having thus learned what the District will be able to raise, the District President, Secretary and Missionary Vice-President, together with the Chairman of the District, be a committee to confer with the General Board of Missions, asking them to select a missionary to be supported by the Leagues of the District."

Yours in the work, A. BUTCHART,
Sec. Walkerton Dist. E. L.

DUNHAM, QUE., January 28th, 1898

DEAR BRO. STEVENSON,—We have just held the annual Waterloo District Convention, and had an enthusiastic missionary meeting. Bro. Arthur Runnels, of Wesleyan Theological College, spoke in behalf of the "Forward Movement." . . . You will doubtless get a number of subscribers for your paper; I enclose a list of ten. This District is much in need of Campaign workers, and their visit would do good to the cause of missions.

Sincerely, A. E. SANDERSON,
Sec. Waterloo Dist. E. L.

RAPID CITY, MAN., January 27th, 1898.

DEAR SIR,— . . . By reading the little MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER, I feel like giving a little of what I lay by for His cause to the Forward Movement for Missions. . . . I send you a draft for \$10, and I will give you \$10 more in the fall, all being well. Wishing you God's blessing on your worthy labors,

I remain, yours, WILLIAM DOHERTY.

[This money was paid to Dr. Sutherland. Are there any others who would like to join with this brother and make up enough to support a native missionary?—ED.]

HAWKSTONE, ONT., February 3rd, 1898.

DEAR BRO. STEPHENSON,—We are in line, and expect before all is over to report a first-class effort for the Campaign Movement. Enclosed please find list of subscribers for the CAMPAIGNER. . . . We expect to do at least \$25.00 on this circuit on the Two-Cents-a-Week Plan. Let us thank God and take courage. Our regular missionary anniversary services subscriptions are almost double what they have ever been in the past. We have not got all around yet; there are still two appointments to hear from. We are feeding "Facts," and, indeed, they are proving grand fuel for the missionary fires that are being kindled. May God hear our earnest prayers for "the evangelization of the world in the present generation."

Yours in the Gospel, HENRY A. FISH.

"The Students' Missionary Campaign" as an Auxiliary Force to the Missionary Department of the Epworth League in Canada.

What is the Missionary Department of the Epworth League?

How should it work?

Why a Students' Missionary Campaign for a Young People's Forward Movement for Missions under the direction of the Church?

I would like each reader to spend at least three minutes in answering each one of these questions for himself before reading a word of what I have to say.

The Missionary Department of the Epworth League is in the hearts of the membership of the League, and will never be perfect until each individual member takes a proper, prayerful, intelligent, sacrificing interest in the extension of our Lord's kingdom.

The Missionary Department is the war department.

A Christian organization is just as strong as its missionary spirit. It may number its members by thousands, even millions. Its resources may be very large. It may be organized and educated in the most perfect way, but lacking a faithful, intelligent, loyal, aggressive, systematic,

unselfish missionary spirit, it is not of God, and therefore not eternal. The member of the Epworth League who has a true missionary department in his heart has a heart in which Jesus abides. That member is interested in the whole kingdom of God, not only that part which affects himself, his home, his Church; but he prays, and sacrifices, and is anxious to know that the kingdom of this world is becoming the kingdom of God.

The Missionary Department of the Epworth League is the organized unselfishness of a new and rapidly growing organization consisting of over 80,000 members. Epworth League Societies are grouped into District Epworth Leagues, and Conference Epworth Leagues. Where the officers are properly elected there is a Missionary Vice-President over each Society, who is assisted by a Missionary Committee selected from the membership of the Society. 2nd. A Missionary Vice-President over each District, who is assisted by the 2nd Vice-President of each Society, which makes a strong committee well placed. 3rd. A Conference Epworth League Missionary Vice-President, who in turn has the District Vice Presidents in his Conference to act as a committee under him. The Missionary Vice-President of the General Epworth League Board is at the head of the Missionary Department of the Epworth League, to whom the Conference Missionary Vice-Presidents are responsible.

If all these officers and committees were appointed and heartily supported by the 80,000 or more members, with missionary departments in their hearts, our Church could easily pass along the line such plans and commands as would direct this great army of consecrated young people in their attack on the strongholds of heathenism; but they are not all appointed, and some who are appointed do not realize the importance of their offices. And, as a general rule, if the above officers are appointed and willing to be useful, they are overladen with other offices and all kinds of work, many of them being business men, professional men and such others as see much more to be done than they are able to do. And yet these officers of this war department are placed over an army of 80,000, for the most part undrilled, untrained soldiers. It would be impossible to accomplish anything with this army without the consecration meeting. It is only through the personal consecration of each member and personal obedience to the Captain of our salvation who is called "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Prince of Peace," that we can hope to make the kingdom of this world the kingdom of our God and His Christ.

The watch-word is "Pray, Study, Give."

We regret that our young people have not as a whole conceived the grand possibilities within their reach. Some officers even fall short of realizing what a grand connexional society our Epworth League is. How then shall we present this grand ideal to our young people? Our officers, who see the possibility, and our General Board of Missions, and our ministry, are all so busy that they cannot find time to make a systematic canvass of our Leagues so as to establish a permanent, self-propagative, systematic movement along the best approved lines of work. The Lord has, however, in his providence raised up a band of earnest students of His kingdom. These are praying, studying, and planning during the winter in our colleges, loyal to the Church, strong in body, full of zeal, many of them hoping to go out as missionaries, others expecting to be pastors at home, and others expecting to enter different professions, will hold prominent places on our Church Boards. These young men say to our

fathers, "Guide us, give us the best plan of work, and we will go to all the Leagues we can possibly reach and place it before them, and talk with the members and officers and report our success to you. We ask you to watch our work. Many of us wish to go out as missionaries; the greater number of us will go, if you will choose us, to any part of the world to preach the Gospel and to heal the sick."

The Missionary Department of Yonge St. Epworth League Send in a Short Report of their Work.

We are very glad to be able to state that we have already at this early date, paid in the full amount promised. Our plan is to begin with the first of our League year, in October, to canvass every one of our members through the Missionary Committee; also any new comers during the year for the promise of a certain amount every month, which is collected on Consecration evening in numbered envelopes. The majority give ten cents, others fifteen and twenty cents a month, a few prefer paying the whole sum at once. It is purely voluntary, but any of those who promise, and forget to keep paid up, are reminded of their arrears.

We have the second Monday of every alternate month for our meeting. At our first we had an earnest address on "Praying and Giving." One evening was given to Canadian missions, with a map.

Several very interesting letters from Dr. Jackson have been read. Our society helped the Woman's Missionary Society in sending a large bale of goods out to Bella Bella from our church in December last.

Next month we purpose having "Sketches from Lives of Missionaries, such as Moffatt, Paton," etc., their books having been read by several persons and interesting items taken therefrom.

Our members have fallen in very heartily with this form of systematic giving, and it has come to be quite an established fact in our League.

We are earnestly trying, by prayer and work, to do something for our Master.

E. MIRIAM ROWLAND,

Toronto, January 12th, 1898.

Miss's Vice-Pres.

[Dr. Jackson is supported by the Toronto Central District Epworth League, in which Yonge Street League is situated.—Ed.]

The Students Volunteer for Foreign Missions—Convention at Cleveland, February 23rd-27th.

A grand students' missionary campaign for a Young People's Forward Movement for Missions throughout America, will be announced during this Convention. This means that over four million Christian young people will be asked to join in prayer, studying and giving, that the world may be evangelized in our generation. This plan has been steadily shaping for over a year; it was greatly helped by the International Epworth League Convention held in Toronto last July.

All those interested in the extension of God's kingdom are asked to take part in this plan by praying that God's Holy Spirit may guide and bless the Convention, and those who are called upon to lead and direct the thought of the young people.

We regret very much the necessity of holding the second part of Dr. Jackson's letter promised last issue over until April, owing to lack of space. See our offer regarding his picture in last issue.

JUNIOR LEAGUE PAGE.

IN CHARGE OF

REV. S. T. BARTLETT, MADOC, ONT.

My Second Letter.

DEAR JUNIOR LEAGUERS:

As I told you last month, I am now going to tell you some things about our Missionary Society, and I want you to learn them in your League. Do it in this way: Choose a boy and a girl to take part in asking and answering the questions. In this way you will have a Missionary Dialogue. As I have not a great deal of room, I have to make the questions and answers very short, and if you are like I was when I was a boy, you will like this all the better. Now, all attention to the facts that are coming.

Q.—How old is the Canadian Methodist Missionary Society? A.—Seventy-four years.

Q.—In what year was it founded then? A.—1824.

Q.—How much money had the Society in its first year? A.—\$140.

Q.—How much had it last year? A.—About \$230,000.

Q.—How many kinds of missionary work does the Society do? A.—Seven.

Q.—What are these seven kinds of work? A.—They are called (1) Domestic Missions, (2) Indian Missions, (3) French Missions, (4) Chinese Missions in British Columbia, (5) Japanese Mission in British Columbia, (6) Foreign Missions in Japan, and (7) Foreign Missions in West China.

Q.—How many persons are there at work for the Society? A.—650.

Q.—How many missions are there in the seven different parts of the whole work? A.—In Domestic Missions there are 419, Indian Missions 54, French Missions 7, Chinese Missions in British Columbia 4, Japanese Mission in British Columbia 1. Foreign Missions: in China 2, in Japan 21. Altogether these make 508 missions.

Q.—How many dollars did the girls and boys of our Church collect for the Society last year. A.—Nearly \$22,000.

Q.—How much was given by the Epworth Leagues of the Church? A.—\$7,669.70.

Q.—Could the Leagues give more, do you think? A.—Yes; very much more.

Q.—How? A.—By forming in every League a "Pray, Study and Give" Band.

Q.—What do you mean by this? A.—That all the members who long to see God's kingdom "come," pledge themselves to pray regularly for the spread of the Gospel, to study the great facts of missions, and to give at least two cents every week for the spread of the Word of God.

Q.—Will this money be used by and for our own missionary work? A.—Yes; it will all go through the proper channel to the work that most needs it. This ought to be, because our own officials know best what the needs of the various fields are, and will spend the money in the very best way.

Q.—May we have such a band in our Junior League? A.—Yes; and we hope that soon there will be a band of this kind in every Junior League in the Church.

Q.—How should we start such a band as this? A.—By forming a Missionary Committee who shall see all the

members and ask for their help. Then collect the money from each one every month and ask our pastor to send it on in the proper way.

Q.—But would this not mean a good deal of work? A.—Yes; but nothing can be well done without work, and if we want to be true to Christ we must do as He did, "work while it is called to-day."

Now, dear Juniors, let me ask you to arrange for this Missionary Dialogue to be given before your meeting some time in the month of March. I am sure your Superintendent will be glad to help you, and if you have some good singing you will have a nice missionary meeting. Have you a blackboard in your League room? If you have, let your President or some Junior who can write well, put all the facts on the board, and in that way you will be able to see them, and that will help you to remember them. If we do not know these things *well* we will not have a real live interest in our own work, and you must not forget that the Junior League wants you to grow up to be intelligent Methodists and have a really intelligent interest in the work of the Missionary Society. I hope you had my last letter read in your League. I know one League where it was very much enjoyed and the Juniors learned many things they did not know before. Hoping that you will all *pray, study; and give*, I remain,

Your friend,

S. T. BARTLETT.

The Conference Epworth League Conventions.

Montreal, to be held at Ottawa, February 22nd and 23rd; Bay of Quinte, to be held at Peterboro', February 23rd and 24th; Toronto, to be held at Brampton, February 23rd and 24th; Hamilton, to be held at Galt, February 22nd and 24th; London, to be held at London, March 7th, 8th and 9th.

YOUR LEAGUE PART OF YOUR CONFERENCE CONVENTION.

We ask each League in these Conferences, which wishes to improve its missionary department, to send its missionary vice-president (or some one specially appointed) to the Convention to study the methods of the missionary department. Much may be gained from the addresses and discussions in the regular sessions; but these alone should not be depended upon, every delegate should make the most of the opportunity of meeting, between the Convention sessions, all who are interested in missions, gather them together, talk about the work, pray about the work, and gain all the inspiration which comes from a conference of workers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE CONVENTIONS.

Pray in your League that God may bless the gathering together of our Leaguers.

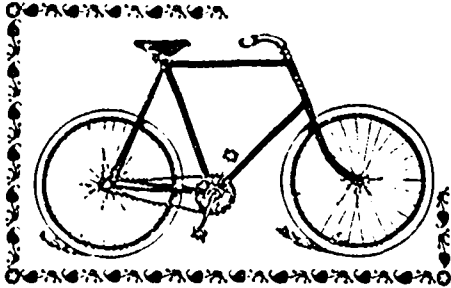
Send delegates. "It paid to go down to Egypt for corn," and your delegates will bring you some help for the developing of your League work.

Pray for your delegate, and send him well informed about the work of your League; he should be able to give a great deal of help to those he meets at the Convention.

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