

The Missionary Leader

"The leaders took the lead in Israel"

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Church Missionary Programmes

First Week

Principles of Soul-Winning

Opening Exercises.
Reports of Labour.
"Commendation Not Condemnation."
Plans for Work.

LEADER'S NOTE.—The leader should endeavour to make these principles of soul-winning plain. The Lord desires that His people shall improve their talents by careful study of His methods of work. Are all the members doing their part in making the message known to others? If not, plans should be laid to enlist the inactive ones in service.

Commendation Not Condemnation

THE use of hearty commendation is prominent in Christ's earthly ministry. He did not hesitate to denounce sin under certain circumstances, but when He set out to win a person to Himself, it was His resolute purpose to find something He could commend.

"The Lord wants His people to follow other methods than that of condemning wrong, even though the condemnation be just. He wants us to do something more than to hurl at our adversaries charges that only drive them further from the truth. The work which Christ came to do in our world was not to erect barriers, and constantly thrust upon the people the fact that they were wrong.

"He who expects to enlighten a deceived people must come near to them and labour for them in love. He must become a centre of holy influence.

"In the advocacy of the truth the bitterest opponents should be treated with respect and deference. Some will not respond to our efforts, but will make light of the gospel invita-

tion. Others—even those whom we suppose to have passed the boundary of God's mercy—will be won to Christ. The very last work in the controversy may be the enlightenment of those who have not rejected light and evidence, but who have been in midnight darkness, and have in ignorance worked against the truth. Therefore treat every man as honest. Speak no word, do no deed, that will confirm any in unbelief."—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. VI, pages 121, 122.*

Christ's first disciples undoubtedly had glaring sins and many defects, as most of us have to-day, and doubtless these were quite as much of a trial to Him as others' failings are to us; but Christ began His work for others by commending them for something they possessed.

His first recorded words to faulty Simon. John 1:42. Or—You are a fine, stalwart man, and deserve that kind of name.

Instead of condemning, He admired the honest, straight-forward character of Nathaniel. John 1:47.

Possibly this was Christ's method of approach to the other disciples.

A publican was singled out for a visit, thus creating confidence. Luke 19:1-10.

A conversation helped a young man. His faith was strengthened by its being recognized. Mark 12:28-34.

We might relate the story of the centurion, the woman who touched Jesus, the two blind men, the leper, and many others.

"Entering, one November morning, at the Grand Central Station in New York, a crowded train for Boston, I found the only vacant seat was alongside of a pleasant-faced, florid-complexioned, large-framed young man, and that seat I took, and began to read the morning paper. After a few minutes my seat-mate took from his valise a large bottle of whisky and a metal drinking cup. Before drinking him-

self, he proffered it to me. As I thanked him and declined it, he drank by himself.

"Not a particularly hopeful outlook for soul-winning, most of us would feel, and still less did there seem to be any chance for the bait of commendation. But the fisherman was doing all he could do as yet, by studying his man and holding himself in readiness.

"I still read my paper, but I thought of my seat-mate, and I watched for an opportunity. In a little while he again turned to his valise, and, as before, took out his whisky bottle. Once more he offered it to me, and again I declined it with thanks. As he put away the bottle, after drinking from it the second time, he said:

"Don't you ever drink, my friend?"

"No, my friend, I do not."

"Well, I suppose you think I'm a pretty rough fellow."

"Perhaps some of us, if we had felt any responsibility at all for speaking a word for Christ to this seat-mate, would have already pointed out the danger and the wrong of his drinking. Or if not, we might have felt that he himself had now made the opening for a word of honest reproof, and with that we would have begun. Surely there was no opportunity to commend anything in this whisky-drinking stranger. But Dr. Trumbull had learned the first principle of man-fishing, and here was his friendly, honest answer, based on the one admirable quality in this man that loving penetration had discovered:

"I think you're a very generous-hearted fellow."

"And then a frank suggestion could be made in the same instant, because the first word had won, not repelled, the man. Even now it must be made in a way that should not repel by giving offence, so he continued:

"But I tell you frankly I don't

think your whisky-drinking is the best thing about you."

"Nor did the whisky drinker ever live who was in any doubt on this point, and promptly came the answer:

" "Well, I don't believe it is."

" "Why do you keep it up, then?" was the friendly question."

"And from that skilful, loving, winning start it was not difficult to have an earnest talk with this young fellow.

"At this he told me something of his story. He was a Massachusetts country boy, now a clerk in a large New York jobbing house. He was just going to his old country home to spend Thanksgiving. He confessed that he had fallen into bad ways in the city, very different ways from those of his boyhood in Massachusetts. I asked him about his mother, and he spoke lovingly and tenderly of her. He said he knew she was praying for him constantly. This brought us into close quarters. I told him that I was sure his mother would be happy if he prayed for himself, and that he knew that he ought to do this. I urged him to do it.

"He was evidently surprised and touched by my expressions of interest in him. Then he spoke gratefully of another show of interest in him. He said:

" "I was coming up Broadway the other night. It was about midnight. I had been having 'a time.' . . . A little ahead of me I saw a fellow in a doorway, and he came out as if he were coming to me. I squared away toward him, as I came near him, for I thought he was 'laying' for me. But as I got opposite to him, he just gave me a card, and asked me to accept it, and I passed on.

" "When I got to the next lamp-post I looked at that card, and it told about a place on Twenty-third Street, called a 'Young Men's Christian Association,' where they'd like to have young men come in at any time, and make themselves at home. And there that fellow that I'd squared away to was out there at midnight 'laying' for just such people as I was, to invite them to come in and make themselves at home in that place. I declare I mean to go up to that place, when I get back, and give them a pound for the good they're doing."

"I told my seat-mate that those who love Christ love such as he, because Christ loves them. And I urged him to make his Thanksgiving Day at his old homestead a real day of thanksgiving, by telling his good mother that her prayers for him were answered.

" "That would make my old mother pretty happy, if I did that," he said heartily.

" "Wouldn't you like to make your old mother happy, as you go home to have a Thanksgiving with her?" I asked.

" "Indeed I would," he said.

"As we came to my Hartford home, where I was to leave the train, I took his hand and urged him again to do what he knew was his duty, and which would gladden his good mother's heart. He thanked me for my interest in his welfare. He promised to talk with his mother of our conversation. He assured me that he would endeavour to profit by our talk. I urged him to commit himself to Christ as the all-sufficient Saviour, and we parted."—*"Taking Men Alive,"* pages 80-83.

What should we avoid when first approaching people with our message?—Anything that will arouse prejudice. Tracts on practical subjects that show the love of God, the power there is in Christ for the overcoming of sin, and the plan of salvation, are excellent for beginning our work with souls.

Second Week

Missionary Correspondence

Opening Exercises.
Reports of Labour.
"Missionary Correspondence."
"An Experience."
Plans for Work.

LEADER'S NOTE.—The lesson is a short one, and there will be time for the leader to enlist some members in this line of work, giving them opportunity to ask questions regarding any points in the work that may not be clear to them. Be sure to use each lesson as a means of building up the church missionary work.

Missionary Correspondence

IF an individual has a gift for letter writing, that surely is a talent lent him of God to be used to His glory,—a gift, if consecrated, full of great responsibilities. When writing common letters of business or friend-

ship, the purpose of writing should be kept in mind, and good sense employed, that what is penned may be appropriate and to the point. In writing missionary letters, the object is infinitely higher, that of labouring for the spiritual good to edification, labouring for the salvation of souls. As the Great Teacher says, "Without Me ye can do nothing," so the first thing before attempting to write is to lay the case before Him, asking divine blessing upon the one for whom you wish to labour; asking also help and wisdom for yourself, that you may have sanctified judgment for your task, that you may have a yearning for the soul's welfare, and lastly, that you may have a realizing sense that the one to whom you are writing may be enveloped in darkness, and you the possible instrument of holding forth to him the "light of life."

In writing to one of whom you know nothing at all, you necessarily labour under some disadvantage. There are certain points that should always be made plain, whether writing to entire strangers or to friends. If you purpose sending them publications, tell them what you send, that they may recognize the literature, and thus the source. If the publications are to be without expense to the receiver, say so. Let your motive in sending be apparent, that you are not after their money, but are actuated by an unselfish desire to place before them truths of special interest for these eventful days in which we are now living. If you have tarried in the "audience chamber" till your own heart is "warm, glowing, with His love o'erflowing," your letter will breathe a sweet earnest spirit that otherwise would be lacking. After sending publications for a few weeks, a letter of inquiry should be written to learn the interest, and if more reading matter would be acceptable. If a reply is received, you will then govern your correspondence accordingly. Avoid anything that would seem abrupt or harsh; anything that would convey the idea that you set yourself up as a teacher. In exposing error, do it kindly, so as not to arouse antagonism. Let the love of Christ draw.

Suppose your list of correspondents consists of a physician, a farmer, a young girl hungry for an education, a hard-working widow, a Catholic, a

Baptist minister, a matron of an orphans' home, an invalid, one in despair, etc. Now should all these receive the same kind of letter, the same publications?—No, study appropriateness; suit your letter to the person, his tastes, circumstances, position in life, etc. Make careful selection of reading matter. Study to make your letters so cheerful, helpful, and interesting that they will be appreciated and longed for.

And, withal, be of good courage. Be faithful on your part to "throw out the life-line," and having done your best, leave all results with God. He alone can give the increase.—*Selected.*

An Experience

A SISTER in the Wahroonga Church, who has been doing faithful missionary work, received a letter from one in whom she has been interested, who writes: "I was waiting that I might have some good news for you. We have had Mr. — here one night each week for the past few weeks, giving us Bible studies, and I am pleased to say that my husband is quite convinced, and it is his sincere wish to have the children brought up in the truth. I sent them to the Sabbath-school last Saturday and I intend to be present at all the prayer meetings I am able to attend. I think it will not be very long before my husband will be keeping the Sabbath. The last Bible study, which was on faith, impressed him greatly."

Third Week

God's Calls and Men's Answers

Opening Exercises.
Reports of Labour.
"God's Calls and Men's Answers."
"Looking for Truth."
Plans for Work.

God's Calls and Men's Answers

The Volunteer

THE Lord's call. Isa. 6:8, first part.

Isaiah's response. Verse 8, last part.

What preparation was necessary? Verses 5-7.

The Timid One:

Jeremiah's response to the Lord's call. Jer. 1:6.

How was he strengthened? Verses 7-10.

One Who Raises Objections:

God's call to Moses. Ex. 3:1-10.

His objections. Verse 11; 4:10.

His helper. Verses 11, 12.

One Who Runs from Duty:

What Jonah did. Jonah 1:1-10.

After trial he obeyed. Jonah 3:1-3.

The result. Verses 4, 5, 10.

One Who Was Willing:

A quick response. Acts 9:6.

What did he become? Verses 13-15.

Looking for Truth

ONLY recently a brother, while canvassing for "Armageddon," happened into a home where he met a very earnest Christian lady. They talked for some time about the fulfilment of prophecy, and the nearness of the end. During the course of the visit she told him of her experience in looking for truth. She has been to different churches, but never found that which would satisfy her deep spiritual desires. She seemed so pleased with the visit and said that she felt the Lord had brought him to her home. Here and there the honest in heart are being found, the seed is being scattered, and some day in the harvest we shall see the marvellous results.

Fourth Week

Opening Exercises.
Reports of Labour.
"Service."
"More Men and More Means Needed for Mission Fields."
"What Was He Doing?"
Plans for Work.

Service

1. FOR what was the church organized?

"He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some shepherds, and teachers, toward the setting of the saints in form for a work of service, for an upbuilding of the body of Christ." Eph. 4:11, 12, in "The Two-fold New Testament."

2. What is to be the attitude of

every true follower of Christ? John 4:34, 35.

3. Why should we make the most of present opportunities? John 9:4.

4. What has God purposed and is able to do for those who abound to every good work? 2 Cor. 9:6-8.

5. What would God have the entire church pray for at this time? 2 Thess. 2:16, 17; Heb. 13:20, 21.

6. What should be our attitude toward all men while we labour for souls? Titus 3:1-7.

More Men and More Means Needed for Mission Fields

THERE has never been a time since our Master commanded His disciples to go into all the world and make Christians of every nation when so great a demand has been made for men and means in the mission fields as at present. Certain conditions have created this, and it is imperative that all believers in the Word of God shall meet the demands as they arise. The whole heathen world, with its more than a billion of population, is open to missionary endeavour. In by-gone days mission boards undertaking to prosecute their work in heathen lands were confronted with obstacles that were almost insurmountable. The lack of the Word of God in the vernacular of the people, and the ignorant condition of the masses, were mighty hindrances, preventing rapid growth.

Now many of these things have been changed. The barriers against foreigners in heathen lands have been practically thrown down. China, Japan, Korea, the islands of the sea, Africa, and practically the whole world have thrown open their doors, inviting the missionary to enter and teach them the Word of God. The splendid work the British and American Bible Societies have done in the translation, publication, and circulation of the Bible in the vernacular of the people has given many the opportunity of reading the Scriptures. There is no other enterprise in the whole civilized world that has made the work of the missionary more successful than this. These societies have sent their circulating agents into the remotest hamlets and villages of most of these countries to offer the Word of God without price, or at a merely nominal sum, to any who would read. The results of this will be known in eternity alone. Then

the mighty movements during the last century among all denominations in spreading the light of the gospel has greatly facilitated the work of all societies among those heathen peoples. Moreover, transportation and methods of communication have added to the comfort and permanency of the work.

One hundred years of activity in these mission fields has proved an entering wedge, the advantages of which the church of God cannot afford to lose. Large recruiting forces must be sent to these fields. The demands are imperative. The magnitude of the opportunities is beyond language to describe. The Macedonian cry rings from every shore for men and means. God not only has made the openings, but He has put into the hearts of His people everywhere such a willingness to support this missionary endeavour as has never been in any previous generation. The wars in Europe, devastating countries, crippling industries, and exhausting finances, throw a double burden upon America to contribute to these foreign lands both men and money. The call is beyond the ability of the church to answer, but every endeavour must be put forth to compass these opportunities. When the call is so imperative, the church must use every possible means to meet the demands made upon it.

We have never faced a situation like that confronting us at the present time; both abroad and in the homeland the demand for men is beyond the supply, and the need of funds is increasing every year. Of course, this is as it should be, and the very call itself should make every heart rejoice, for this work must be finished before the Master returns. Judging from the conditions in the world, it would seem as if everything is ready for the coming of the Master, except His own people and work. If we could only meet the providences as they open for us, it looks as if the Lord's advent would not be long delayed. I. H. EVANS.

What Was He Doing?

A GRAY-HAIRED Roman Catholic of San Paulo, in talking with a missionary, said: "Young man, tell me, what was your father doing that my father died, and never knew that there was such a book as the Bible?

You say that in your land you have had this Book for generations. Why did they not have mercy on us? How is it that only now we are hearing of this Book? My father was a religious man, he taught us all he knew; but he never said Bible to us, and died without the knowledge of it."—*Selected.*

Missionary Volunteer Programmes

First Week Colporteur

Hymn.
Prayer.
Secretary's Report.
Scripture Drill: Rev. 22:1, 2.
Reports of Labour.
Hymn.
"Ten Reasons for Engaging in Colporteur Work."
"The Testimonies on the Colporteur Work."
"My First Work."
"A Colporteur's Experience."
"Just the Book."
"Stick-to-it-iveness an Essential."
Five-minute Exercise: Questions on "Revelation" for week ending December 2.
Hymn.

Ten Reasons for Engaging in Colporteur Work

If these could be given by ten different members, without referring to the paper, this exercise would be more effective.

1. It is God's work, pre-eminently so, in its aim, method, and blessing attending. It is a definite form of Christian work, not merely bookselling.
2. It carries the gospel into thousands of homes where pastors or other Christian workers do not or cannot usually go.
3. By it the greatest amount of good, through direct contact, can be done to the largest number. People who cannot be persuaded to attend church will read an attractive work.
4. It presents countless opportunities for doing personal work, and for enlisting men's lives and sympathies in the cause of Christ.
5. It supplements all other evangelical agencies for the promotion of the kingdom of God among men. There need be no fear or rivalry or competition; Christian colporteurs are wanted everywhere.
6. It may be undertaken in so

great a variety of ways: home to home, churches, societies, conventions, lectures, etc.

7. The plan of colporteur visiting, or book missionary work, is applicable anywhere,—city, town, and country.

8. The work is not an experiment, but an established and thoroughly-tried method of reaching the people, especially those who do not go to church nor care for religious things.

9. The opportunity offered to meet people of all classes.

10. It provides employment at the smallest outlay of money, and the least possible risk of failure or loss. The remuneration offered is liberal and in proportion to the amount of time and energy expended. Diligent and consecrated men and women make all expenses and also sufficient to provide a reserve fund.

The Testimonies on the Colporteur Work

What is the highest order of missionary work?

The canvassing work . . . is missionary work of the highest order, and it is as good and successful a method as can be employed for placing before the people the important truths for this time.

Why should our publications be circulated?

Many who are hungry for the bread of life have not the privilege of hearing the Word from God's delegated preachers. For this reason it is essential that our publications be widely circulated.

For what purpose has God ordained the canvassing work?

God has ordained the canvassing work as a means of presenting before the people the light contained in our books, and canvassers should be impressed with the importance of bringing before the world as far as possible the books necessary for their spiritual education and enlightenment.

When would the Lord have us engage in this work?

This is the very work the Lord would have His people do *at this time.*

What will the canvasser thus be doing?

All who consecrate themselves to God to work as canvassers are assisting to give the last message of warning to the world.

What is said of the neglect of this work?

Not a fiftieth part is now being done to extend the truth that might be done by scattering publications, and bringing within

the sound of the truth all that can be induced to come.

What should the canvasser remember?

Let the canvasser who engages in this work remember that he has an opportunity to sow beside all waters. Let him remember as he sells the books which give a knowledge of the truth, that he is doing the work of God, and that every talent is to be used to the glory of His name.

What is the state of the world as regards spiritual matters?

The time has come when a large work should be done by the canvassers. The world is asleep, and as watchmen they are to ring the warning bell to awake the sleepers of their danger.

Who are the messengers of God at this time?

Those who go forth in the name of the Lord are His messengers to give to the multitudes who are in darkness and error the glad tidings of salvation.

What means does the Lord use to keep the message before the people?

Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the Word alone.

In what way will souls be led to the truth through this means?

The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser, will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the Word. The same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister.

By whom is the canvasser accompanied?

Those who labour for the good of others are working in union with the heavenly angels. They have their constant companionship, their unceasing ministry. Angels of light and power are ever near, to protect, to comfort, to heal, to instruct, to inspire.

My First Work

BEFORE I went to my territory my father wanted me to go to our neighbour, who was a Catholic, and sell him a book. Sunday afternoon my mother went there for a visit. I accompanied her, after earnestly seeking the Lord for help. When we arrived they had company, so I thought I would wait and give my canvass later. We were there about

an hour and I had not begun to canvass. I could see by my mother's look that she was ready to go home and I felt so miserable, for I did not know how to begin, so I thought to myself that I would canvass him some other time. Just at that moment he asked me what I was going to do during the summer. Then I explained to him about my work, and took my prospectus and went over to where he and his wife were sitting.

He took the book out of my hands and began to read in the introductory chapter and said, "This book is about God." I said, "Yes." Then he looked through the book and said, "O, it is about Moses." I said, "Yes," and then I explained the size of the book. He looked at his wife and they both said they wanted the book in the full morocco binding. I told him that I could bring the book any time he was ready to pay for it. He then reached into his pocket and said, "You know I always have the cash ready," and handed me one pound for "Patriarchs and Prophets."

One forenoon I came to a beautiful country home. I went to the door and was met by the housekeeper. She introduced me to a young man who took me into the library, and while I was giving the canvass for "Bible Readings" he told me he was a Sunday-school teacher and would like to have the book that coming Sunday, for it answered some of the questions in their lesson. He seemed disappointed when I told him that he could not have it by Sunday, for the trains were running only every two days. He paid me for the book and I sent his order in to the Tract Society, and in a few days he received it. When I called in the autumn he said he was very much pleased with it.

M. H.

A Colporteur's Experience

THAT there is joy and satisfaction attached to the colporteur work, one cannot but realize as one converses with the Lord's spirit-filled messengers who make it their business to scatter the printed page. In a recent conversation with a brother, I was told that he found four families who, unknown to one another, were keeping the Sabbath, and living up to what light they had. He made them all acquainted and the prospects

are that a Sabbath-school will be formed.

A brother who resides nine miles from the city, has scattered tracts and papers judiciously, and to this may be attributed this good work. Truly in the Lord's vineyard one soweth, another watereth, but it is God who giveth the increase.

"I met a Presbyterian minister recently," said a colporteur, "who had some of our books and to whom I loaned others. During our talk he confessed to me that he believed the gospel message as lived and preached by the Seventh-day Adventists. 'When I want a good strong sermon—one that will wake up my congregation, I go to the Adventist books for it,' said the minister. All this man needs is a little definite study, and he will be preaching the message."

Just the Book

I CALLED at a house one Friday afternoon and a man came to the door. I explained my work to him and he invited me inside, and I canvassed him and his wife. When I got through she said that was just the book for which she was looking. Needless to say, she gave me the order for it readily. I then told her that as to-morrow was the day I kept as the Sabbath, I could not work and that I should be glad to remain with them over the Sabbath. She kindly consented, and during my stay she began to ask about Sabbath and Sunday. I pointed out to her from the Bible that the seventh day, and not the first, was the day which the Lord commands us to keep holy. I am unable to relate all that was said, but she was firmly convinced that she was breaking God's commandment. When I left she said with God's help she would keep the true Sabbath, and when I returned to deliver the book she had not changed her mind, but was still endeavouring to obey God's Word.

E. A. L.

Stick-to-it-iveness an Essential

STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS, the modern rendering of the old word perseverance, must be in the make-up of the successful missionary, just as it must be in that of the successful business man. When the truth is

presented to sin-sick souls, and their hearts seem hard and their minds clogged, let us not give up, but press the battle to the gates until victory comes. In most cases the hardest part of the work, the time when the greatest resistance is made, is when nearest the point of surrender. The darkest part of the night, it is said, is the hour just before the dawn. We must not be discouraged because we do not see immediate results. William Carey, of India fame, waited seventeen years to see his first convert to Christianity, and many others of God's great workers have toiled for years and years before seeing any direct results. Yet God's Word shall not return to Him void, but will accomplish that which He pleases, and prosper in the thing whereto He sent it. We must sow the seed beside all waters, and leave the results with our God. If we are faithful in the little He gives us to do, we shall also be faithful when there is much to be done.

I had poor success taking orders in one town where I worked some years ago. When I arrived at the place, I met the man who had been working there for some weeks before. He told me that the city was full of churches, and all the people were Catholics. I believed the report, and, as by beholding we become changed, I was soon almost as much discouraged as my companion. We talked the matter over several times, and decided we should have to quit the work; that the field agent could not do any better than we in such territory, and that he would starve if he was not receiving a salary; that our clothes were getting threadbare and our shoe soles thin, and there was no money coming in to buy new ones. Soon the brother left the work and went home, but I remained with it, for somehow I felt that God could be trusted when one was working with Him. I prayed to God more earnestly for help, stopped spending money for iced drinks and "that which is not bread," put in longer time with the prospectus, and then I found that I was getting orders from priests as well as from people, and the last week's work in that town resulted very favourably. I won the victory through Christ by following the example of the postage stamp—sticking to a thing until it gets there.

Success from perseverance comes

in individual work as well as in general work. Once I stepped into a Frenchman's drapery store and asked for the proprietor. As soon as he came, I began to show him my book, and then he began shaking his head. I continued, increasing my enthusiasm as he decreased his head-shaking, and when I stopped he had also stopped. Then he took my pencil and signed his name on the dotted line, ordering a half-leather binding. Next I told him his clerks would surely like to see the book also; he sent two of them to me, both of whom placed orders after I had talked with them a few minutes. At another time I entered a shoe-making establishment, walked up to the owner's office, and began to show him my book. Before I was through, he said he knew all the book treated of and did not need it; but I continued my little story just the same, and when I had finished he was ready to take a half-leather binding. Then I told him his book-keeper would like to have a copy of the book, and so he went to him and recommended the book, and the man immediately said he would take one like the proprietor's. Then I told him his employees also needed it to make better workmen, and he introduced me to some of them. The result was six orders, including the cook's. And the proprietor himself paid the money for them when delivered a few days afterwards.

While working in another large city, and having good success, I was asked to work a small town nearby. I did not feel it was the best thing to do, but, complying with orders, I started out with the number of books which I thought could be sold in a town of that size. After working the first half-day I was disappointed in the place, and after completing the first day's work I was discouraged. While thinking it over, I just about decided to deliver the few orders I had taken and return to the city the next day. But after a while I made up my mind to stick to the job and finish it, if I never took another order in the town; and with this determination I started out the next morning to work. I was surprised at the number of orders I took that day, and when ready to leave I was able to deliver every book I had taken with me. I was very thankful to God for that experience, and was much strengthened by it in my de-

termination always to stay by the work and finish it; because men who fail are those who only begin something, and those who succeed finish something.

Let us therefore strive for the mark, always pressing forward, encouraging ourselves with the knowledge that even if we become weary in well-doing, we shall reap if we faint not.

H. A. ROBINSON.

Second Week

The Hawaiian Islands

Hymn.

Prayer.

Secretary's Report.

Scripture Drill: Isa. 65: 21, 22.

Reports of Labour.

Hymn.

Talk on Hawaiian Islands.

"The Paradise of the Pacific."

"Hawaii."

"A Missionary Trip in the Hawaiian Islands."

"Hilo, Hawaii."

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—The material for the talk called for in the programme can be obtained from "An Outline of Mission Fields," which has been supplied to all our Missionary Volunteer Societies. This talk should occupy but two or three minutes. If possible, use a map in presenting this programme.

The Paradise of the Pacific

ON their voyage from America to Australia Pastor Snow and family called at the Hawaiian Islands. Sister Snow in writing to the *Youth's Instructor* of their visit there says:

"Before the daybreak of December 13 [1915], many passengers on the *Sierra* were on deck, peering into the distance, to catch the first outline of the Hawaiian Islands.

"Molokai is the first land sighted. Forty miles long and seven broad, it is a beautiful and fertile island. A small peninsula at the north, fenced off from the rest of the island by a lofty and almost vertical precipice, is the leper settlement. Most of Molokai's land is devoted to pasture.

"There are eight habitable islands in the group of which Hawaii is the largest. Its vast mountains attract most attention. Three mighty domes are seen from the ocean, the two highest often wearing snow caps and glistening like gems amid the clouds. Mauna Loa holds in its lap, at an elevation of four

thousand feet, a great active volcano in whose crown is one of the largest active craters in the world. At intervals of years tremendous bursts of molten lava roll down the mountain side. The tablelands of Hawaii are used for pasture or to raise sugar-cane and the coffee shrub. Its bold cliffs are streaked with cascades.

Oahu (O-á-hu) is first in commerce and manufactures, and, according to its size, in agriculture. It is mountainous, with peaks over four thousand feet high. Its harbours can accommodate the largest steamships. Its area is about six hundred square miles. It is distinguished for holding the capital city of the group, Honolulu.

"Marvellously beautiful are the trees and shrubbery of Honolulu, all of which are imported from tropical and subtropical climates, and the flowers from everywhere. Over fifty thousand varieties have been imported.

"We felt the charm of the languid beauty of this rich island at the crossroads of the Pacific, and would willingly have remained to enjoy and explore for a month or more. It is said that from the heart of Honolulu one may take a different walk every day all the day long, for three hundred and sixty-five days in the year, and still not exhaust its gemlike beauties. Mountain and sea, valley and plain, ever within an hour of one another—a world in a nutshell. There are a hundred trails and footpaths leading out of Honolulu into the mountains.

"Again and again will the mind renew this visit to the place so often called "The Blessed Isle," and revert to its wondrous and unique originality. Some of its finest buildings—and many of them are very imposing—are built of lava rock.

"In a stroll outside the streets we saw palms towering up, thickly clustered with cocoa-nuts. Bananas waved their long, broad leaves. We walked under flowing acacias, palm-ettos, breadfruit trees, mangolias, and innumerable shrubs in glowing bloom. A shower had fallen and called out the perfume of the blossoms.

"We returned to the ship down a broad, well-paved street, fringed with great hotels, said to be far superior to most in Europe, emporiums, banks, and newspaper offices. This street

is flanked by a narrow lane of Chinese shops and laundries, Japanese dens, and Hawaiian cafés.

"All religions are represented here. The Emma Street car took us past the Mormon church. And places for almost every form of worship, from the most ancient to the most modern, are easy of access.

"An appetizing lunch was served us at the mission, with tropical fruit such as we had never seen. We ate of the fruit of the magic isle, and passed under its spell. We sailed away with orange-coloured wreaths arounds our necks, and with our newly-made friends waving to us from the shore, until this pearl of the Pacific was lost in the distance."

Hawaii

HAWAII is the largest island of the group, having an area of over four thousand square miles. Mauna Kea (the snow mountain), rising about fourteen thousand feet above the level of the island, is known as the highest mountain in Oceania. Hawaii boasts the largest active volcano in the world, Kilauea, which attracts thousands of tourists, who brave every danger to see its bed of red-hot lava boiling at a depth of six hundred feet. The top of the pit is a mile in circumference. There are many other reminders of the wonderful handiwork of God on the island. The chief industries are the cultivation of sugar-cane and coffee. The population numbers at the present time 55,382, but the Hawaiian race comprises a very small percentage of this number, for they are rapidly falling a prey to diseases caused principally by intemperance.

Our work here was started by Brother Brand. A Chinese school was opened, and carried on with small results. The Hawaiian people have been sadly neglected, and that is the reason the message has made so little headway in this territory. Everywhere we find honest hearts eager for the truth of God, and I am thankful to be able to speak to them in their own language, for we have but one small booklet to offer them in the way of literature.

Our medical work breaks down prejudice and helps us to come in touch with an influential class of people. The treatment rooms are well equipped, and as we work to

help our patrons physically we also try to meet their spiritual needs by giving talks on health and temperance, pointing them to the great Physician, who can heal every ill. Gradually the way is opening to lend books and distribute papers.

Every Sabbath a little company of from four to eight persons meets in our home for Sabbath-school and church service. There are five believers in Hilo, and three who live about fifteen miles out in the country. I try to visit the country on Sunday and hold cottage meetings with those whom our brethren have interested in the truth. The way has opened to hold meetings with the native Hawaiians on Sunday evening at a settlement conducted by the Protestant missionaries. We are also conducting regular Bible studies and distributing clubs of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and English papers. One woman has accepted the truth through our efforts. She is a nurse employed by a neighbour, and in a dream was directed to come to Hilo, where some one would teach her. The verses we read in our Bible studies with her were the same scriptures which the dream impressed upon her mind. She is now anxious to do all she can for the salvation of others, and before she left gave me two pounds, her first tithe.

We are praying that we shall soon be able to report the organization of a strong church in Hilo. We ask an interest in your prayers that God may richly bless our efforts in this portion of His great harvest field.

ROBERT J. MCKEAGUE.

A Missionary Trip in the Hawaiian Islands

SOME time ago I accompanied my husband on a missionary trip. I do this whenever possible, and we load ourselves with books and papers, and perhaps some food or clothing for the poor families whom we visit. A few miles from town the road takes us through a beautiful tropical forest, and then out into the wide expanse of sugar-cane fields.

Our first stop is at a humble home in Keaau, where we are sure of a hearty welcome. Mrs. Henry and six children have been studying the truth for several months, and are keeping the Sabbath. Mr. Henry finds it a greater struggle to surrender all, still he is convinced, and eager

to study with us. While my husband holds a Bible reading with the parents and neighbours whom they call in, I teach the children and their little friends many new songs, verses, and the doctrinal truths in a simple way. Every head is bowed, eyes are closed, hands folded, and it is perfectly quiet while we pray and all join in the Lord's prayer. They can repeat the Ten Commandments, the quarter's memory verses, and several songs readily, and drink in the truth, as well as the older ones.

Mrs. Henry keeps our good papers in circulation all the time, and many are becoming interested. She talks the message to her neighbours, and, recently, when her brother tried to convince her of the truth of Mormonism, she "reasoned with him from the Scriptures" all night. One other encouraging feature is that she calls all the family together for morning and evening worship. And how, you ask, did you gain an entrance into this home? Martin and Nicholas Neilsen, who for years have been the only representatives of this message on this island, live in that district, and walk for many miles selling literature in the language of the plantation labourers, as well as selling English reading matter. One day they sold a *Signs* to the Keauau storekeeper, and as he did not care for it he gave it to Mrs. Henry. The seed fell on good ground, and she accepted the light for which she had been searching.

Four miles farther up this volcano road we enter the home of one of our Norwegian sisters, who recently married a Hawaiian. Their house is a poor one and their food is very simple. She readily responded to encouragement, and now she and her husband are keeping the Sabbath. Some of the neighbours come in to the studies, and we are trying to lift them from the life they now lead to walk in the light of the third angel's message.

We have just begun Bible readings with the school-teachers. Judging from the flowers, bananas, and good wishes which we carry home with us, we consider our efforts appreciated; and although the road is often rough, and we get caught in the rain, it pays, and the Lord has blessed and protected us.

With the literature that our members here post and sell, together with

the work already mentioned, we feel sure the Lord will prepare a people from this island to meet Him in His soon-coming kingdom. How we wish we had literature for the Hawaiians, for we do see gratifying results in proclaiming the truth to them in their own language. We believe that a large company would be obeying God's commandments where now there are so few, had our missionaries studied the language and worked for the native as well as for the white man in these islands. May the Lord give us strength to warn those who remain.

MABEL MARVIN MCKEAGUE.

Hilo, Hawaii

PASTOR F. H. CORNWAY has been with us the past few days and has greatly encouraged us by his timely counsel and help. Last Sabbath was a day long to be remembered by our Hilo company, as three, the first-fruits of our labours here, were buried with their Lord in baptism. We were especially glad for the answers to prayer and for the victories gained which enabled Brother and Sister Henry to unite in this solemn ordinance, and also that Sister Ruth Yeaman, who has long known the message of truth, could take her stand definitely at this time. One of our patients gave us the use of his beach home, and all our number (eighteen), with five visitors, gathered there in the afternoon to witness the baptism. It was a beautiful place for such a service, and following the ordinance there was preaching in the house, especially for our visitors. Others will soon be ready for baptism.

Since the great majority of our believers here are Hawaiians, the church bids fair to be our first really Hawaiian church in these islands.

During the week of prayer our people learned to pray for definite things, and many precious victories were gained, among both adults and children. We are glad to say that new victories are reported at each midweek meeting, which is a strength to all.

In my last letter I spoke of the freedom from devastating storms in the islands. Since then a storm on land and sea has been raging of such unprecedented magnitude as to cause men's hearts to fail for fear, although no serious damage has been done. Here in our own harbour, boats were

unable even to anchor, and the scene presented, as we stood and watched the waves roll mountain high over the new breakwater and then on over to the beach, sweeping away a considerable stretch of railroad track, and on across the seaside park, was not unlike the pictures we had seen of floods in other parts of the world.

Turning our backs upon this angry demonstration, we looked upon one of the most sublime scenes of nature—grand old Mauna Kea Mountain, covered with a thick blanket of snow almost to her very base, and tinted with various hues by the rising sun. Pray for us as never before, that we may be faithful to warn the inhabitants of these islands.

MRS. MABEL MCKEAGUE.

Third Week

Knowledge Is Power

Hymn.

Prayer.

Secretary's Report.

Scripture Drill: Isa. 11:6, 9.

Reports of Labour.

Hymn.

"Fifteen Minutes a Day."

"Men Who Have Made Time."

"They Like the Books."

"Ten Good Reasons."

Scripture Enigma.

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—"Men Who Have Made Time." It would greatly add to the interest of this programme to have these incidents related by several of the members, each one telling in his own words one of the experiences.

Fifteen Minutes a Day

YOU haven't time? Not fifteen spare moments in all the twenty-four long, golden hours that make up our days? Look for the truant minutes here and there, and I believe you will change your mind. In all the long catalogue of stereotyped excuses for the neglect of this or that duty, none is given more frequently, founded on more of self-delusion, than the want of leisure. People are continually cheating themselves with the idea that they would like to do this or that if they "only had the time." Hundreds of young people burn with an intense desire to cultivate their minds; "they realize how essential to success, in this age of intelligence, are mental training and knowledge; they see the superficial, half-instructed men everywhere out-distanced in the race of life";

they long to prepare themselves for more efficient service in the Master's cause: but, alas! every moment of their waking hours is taken up by present pressing calls, and they have no leisure for reading and study.

The men who achieve the greatest things are those who are possessed of that most desirable kind of genius—the genius for hard work. They are jealous of every moment. A few minutes to-day are snatched for the pursuance of some special interest,—perhaps the Reading Course—and this, repeated day by day, week by week, month by month, will bring much to pass in a year. The largest houses are built by laying one small brick upon another. Suppose you can find only fifteen minutes for reading any day. Treasure them, and try what you can build from those broken fragments of time, rendered the more precious by their brevity.

"It is said that in the United States mint at Philadelphia, the floor of the gold-working room is a network of wooden bars. These catch all the falling particles of precious metal, and when the day's labour is done, the floor, which is in sections, is removed, and the golden dust is swept up, to be melted and coined. Learn from this the nobler economy of time. Glean its golden dust." Economize with ten-fold care those "leavings of days," and "wee bits" of hours—apparently so valueless singly, but of such inestimable worth in the aggregate—which most persons sweep out into the waste of life, and you will be rich in leisure. Be a miser of moments. Hoard up and turn to account odd minutes, half hours, unexpected holidays, the five-minute gaps before meals are served, the chasms while waiting for unpunctual persons, and you will acquire a wealth of knowledge which will help you live the successful life.

Elihu Burritt acquired the mastery of eighteen languages and twenty-two dialects, not by rare genius, but by improving such bits and fragments of time as he could while pursuing his work as a blacksmith. Mr. Grote, whose history of Greece is recognized as an authority, was a busy banker. Sir John Lubbock, the highest English authority on archaeology, gained his knowledge while carrying on a large mercantile business. Elizabeth Colton has mastered fifty-four languages. She

says, "While waiting a few moments each day for dinner while at school, I read the New Testament through in Dutch, Russian, Portuguese, and Zulu." Captain Charles, of the giant steamship *Lusitania*, had a wide acquaintance with the best literature. He once said: "If any one could give ten or fifteen minutes a day to reading, . . . he would speedily ascertain that he was in that way amassing a vast fund of information, and bringing his mind and personality to a higher degree of cultivation than would be thought possible."

"Think of the untold wealth locked up in the spare moments of every life. It is possible to pick up an education in the odds and ends of time which most people throw away." There are said to be five hundred new books published every day, or about one hundred and fifty thousand each year. Some of these are mines of information and dynamos of inspiration. Others are not worth reading. The voyagers over this vast "ocean of printer's ink" must have chart and compass to guide them, or they will not reach the desired haven. The Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses have helped thousands of young people to find their way. Will you not join the Reading Circle now, and endeavour to spend at least fifteen minutes each day with the excellent books that have been selected?—*Gazetter*.

Men Who Have Made Time

"HENRY CLAY, the 'mill boy of the slashes,' was one of seven children of a widow too poor to send him to any but a common country school. But he used every spare moment to study, without a teacher, and in after years he was a king among self-made men. The boy who had learned to speak in a barn, with only a cow and horse for an audience, became one of the greatest of American orators and statesmen."

"I want a Greek Testament," said John Brown, of Carpow, Scotland, to a bookseller at St. Andrews. The dealer stared at the shepherd boy, rough and unkempt from a night walk of twenty miles to buy a book, and had begun to make sport of so strange a request from a small country lad, when a college professor

entered. "Now," said the professor, after learning what John wanted, "if you will read a verse of that Testament and translate it to me, you shall have the book for nothing." The boy translated several verses with ease, and marched proudly home with his prize. He had mastered both Greek and Latin while tending his flock, and laid the foundation for the ripe scholarship for which he became noted."

Richard Cobden's father died, leaving nine children almost penniless. The boy earned his living by watching a neighbour's sheep, but had no chance to attend school until he was ten years old. He was sent to a boarding school, where he was abused, half-starved, and allowed to write home only once in three months. At fifteen he entered his uncle's store in London as a clerk. He learned French by rising early and studying while his companions slept.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, too, wrote her great masterpiece, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in the midst of pressing household cares. Beecher read Froude's "England" a little each day that he had to wait for dinner. Longfellow translated the "Inferno" by snatches of ten minutes a day, while waiting for his coffee to boil, persisting for years until the work was done.

"Great men have ever been misers of moments. Cicero said: 'What others give to public shows and entertainments, nay, even to mental and bodily rest, I give to the study of philosophy.' A great chancellor of France wrote a valuable work in odd moments while waiting for his meals. Lord Bacon's fame springs from the work of his leisure hours while chancellor of England. During an interview with a great monarch, Goethe suddenly excused himself, went into an adjoining room, and wrote down a thought for his "Faust" lest it should be forgotten. Sir Humphry Davy achieved eminence in spare moments in an attic of an apothecary's shop. Pope would often rise in the night to write out thoughts that would not come during the busy day. Grote wrote his matchless "History of Greece" during the hours of leisure snatched from his duties as a banker.

"An hour a day might make all the difference between bare existence and useful, happy living. An hour

a day might make—nay, has made—an unknown man a famous one, a useless man a benefactor to his race."

How Shall I Begin?

Begin by joining the senior or junior Missionary Volunteer Reading Course for 1917. These courses are conducted by the Union Conference for the one purpose of helping our young people in the choice of good reading, and to assist them to read to a definite end.

They Like the Books

THE Reading Courses have made many friends among the young people of Australia and other countries. Hear what some of them say:

"Indeed I took the course this year. I liked the other one so much that I could not afford to miss this one."

"The course has been of inestimable value to me. From it I have learned to depend upon God for guidance and help even in the little things in life. I have learned to pray more when difficulties and trials are hardest."

"Even though I am very busy with my school work and daily duties, I do not feel that I can afford to miss the Reading Course."

The following shows how a group of young people read the books together: "Now about our reading circle. There is not much to tell. We meet at the home of one of the members, open our meeting with a song, if it is convenient, and a word of prayer, and plunge immediately into the reading of our weekly assignment, and at the end of the reading, I ask the questions. There have been only a few times when we have not had perfect attendance. We have fourteen members."

"I do so enjoy reading these books. I am determined to keep at it until I finish all the back courses."

"These books are just as fascinating as the continued stories used to be."

"I have received more real good from my Reading Course books this year than from any previous reading."

"HAPPY is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

Ten Good Reasons

You should take one or both of the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses:

1. Because the books in the courses have been carefully selected and are supremely good ones.

2. Because there is room for you in the Reading Circle, and we want you to be sure to share the pleasures and benefit of these excellent books together with the host of young people that have already enrolled and obtained their books.

3. Because the books contain valuable help for daily living.

4. Because the books will stimulate your interest in missions.

5. Because they will increase your love of good reading, and good reading is a remarkable life improver.

6. Because these books can all be read in your spare minutes.

7. Because pressing the reading of these books into your spare moments will teach a valuable lesson in economizing time.

8. Because the Reading Course books will be an excellent addition to your personal library. And every young person who wants to succeed should gather about him good books.

9. Because there are questions sent out with these books which will help you to review and fix in your memory the most interesting and important points.

10. Because you should learn to love good books while young, because it is the books read before the middle of life that most influence one's career.

Scripture Enigma

1. WHAT was the name of a man, of whom it is said in the Scriptures that he was sent from God?

2. Of whom is it said that he walked with God?

3. Of whom is it written that they shall see God?

4. Who was it who, desiring a son, prayed to God?

5. What king, though he was the son of a very wise father, did evil in the sight of God?

6. Who was it who hid in a cave the prophets of God?

The initial letters of the answers will give the name of a priest, who was related, by marriage, to a very great man.

(Answer to Enigma)

Jethro

(Priest of Midian, and father-in-law of Moses.)

1. John.
2. Enoch.
3. The pure in heart.
4. Hannah.
5. Rehoboam.
6. Obadiah.

Fourth Week

Life's Aim

Hymn.

Prayer.

Secretary's Report.

Scripture Drill: Rev. 22:3.

Reports of Labour.

Hymn.

"An Aim."

"Value of a Definite Aim."

"Successful Christian Workers."

Poem: "A Noble Army."

"A Missionary Pumpkin."

Hymn.

An Aim

OUR success in this life and our eternal destiny depends entirely upon our setting an aim, and letting nothing divert our minds from that aim until we see the end accomplished. The man who would win must put his hand on the plough and never turn back. This is equally true in the social, political, commercial, and religious worlds. The man who wins is the man who puts on his best mental equipment and sets his mark, not turning till he reaches his goal. Who has yet seen a young man or woman reach a successful point who habitually turns from one thing to another? One who is affected by feelings and circumstances, as a barometer is by climatic conditions, and as a result goes from one thing to another, will never become a truly well-equipped man. He who would win must have concentration. If he does not possess much of this naturally, let him cultivate it. This can be done. It is within the realm of God's will that every Seventh-day Adventist young man and woman should aim at that wonderful word—success.

We, who have been given the sacred work of the third angel, must not rest until we reach the standard. Ours is a holy privilege.

Sometimes our young people are desirous of winning souls, and as a result they enthusiastically go out

amongst the people to tell them the wonderful news that is so dear to them. God is pleased and the angels smile to see the interest they take in this work, yet there are different ways of presenting the message. I do not think there is one young person in our ranks who would not want to present it in the best possible manner, doing credit to the cause he loves. The servant of the Lord has said that our young people "should be taught how to meet people and how to present the third angel's message in an attractive manner."

When we consider how Jesus, at the age of only twelve, could discuss His Father's business with those learned doctors, we are led to exclaim, "Give us, Lord, some of Thy wisdom." And with that wisdom we do indeed need His way of presenting Bible truths. All His sentences were couched in simple, elegant, refined language, and as He is our pattern, we as young people should set our aim to acquire the necessary knowledge which will enable us to rightly represent the sacred calling. Let us stop at nothing but success. The one who is successful will not evade difficulties, but will meet them courageously, knowing that He can make these insurmountable obstacles turn into wonderful opportunities for more efficient service.

Let us throw enthusiasm into this work and make the aim of our life a better fitting for service as God's own workman, and may we as Paul *press* toward the mark of the prize, and finally gain an entrance into the earth made new where Jesus and the angels will teach us throughout eternity. PEARL B. JAMES.

Value of a Definite Aim

It was Goethe who said, "Wherever thou art, be all there." Concentrate your efforts. It is not the firing at random that wins the battle; it is the well-directed aim. Do one thing, and do it successfully. Aimless wandering will not accomplish life's work. "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." You cannot succeed if your aim is constantly changing. Emerson says, "Hitch your waggon to a star," but let it be a fixed star. You cannot aim too high.

"Why do you lead such a solitary

life?" a friend asked Michael Angelo. The artist replied, "Art is a jealous mistress; she requires the 'whole man.'" Success in any line is impossible without the "whole man."

Day after day Columbus wrote these simple words in his diary, "This day we sailed westward, which was our course." His definite purpose and perseverance discovered America.

When Marshal Field, a world-renowned merchant, was asked to relate the story of his success, he said: "I determined not to remain poor. I saved my earnings and attended strictly to business. I always thought I would be a merchant. I grasped an opportunity in locating in business. I persevered." He further said, "The qualities of honesty, energy, frugality, integrity, are more necessary than ever to-day, and there is no success without them."

After nine years of research and experiment, Alexander Bell completed the first telephone in 1876. When asked for the factors of success, he said, "Perseverance applied to a practical end, and concentration of purpose and study."

Mary Lyon, the friend of poor girls, fought public sentiment, which was then very strong against the public work of women, and established Mount Holyoke Seminary, a very successful school for girls.

A man who accomplished the aim of his childhood, said, "I do not think there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance." Bovee said, "We make room for the man who boldly pushes past us."

MRS. LILLIE GEORGE BLUE.

Successful Christian Workers

SUCCESS in God's work is the greatest and only true success in the world. Men who have fought and won for the cross of Christ will receive a crown of glory. Moses chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." A man may be successful in gaining worldly honours and riches, but that is not the success that counts in the heavenly courts. The young person who gives up all to follow Christ has

chosen life's noblest ideal, for "higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children."

The experiences that some of our successful workers have had in working for a Christian education are an inspiration.

One of our leading physicians, who is superintendent of a sanitarium, in referring to his experiences, said:

"I scoured floors, washed windows, tacked down carpets, and did a thousand and one other things that a boy naturally dislikes to do. Meanwhile at the college the Lord was using the teachers to satisfy the insatiable thirst for knowledge that He had planted in my soul. Time rolled on, and I was promoted to be night-watchman. That gave me a little chance to study between the regular rounds while I was on duty. How I envied the boys and girls who did not have to work their way through school! But I do not now, for to get my education I was compelled to form the habit of studying and working at the same time, and this habit has been of priceless value to me. Let me say to those who are compelled to work strenuously in order to secure an education, Instead of murmuring at your lot, thank the Lord for the opportunity."

A successful teacher in one of our colleges was driven from home by his father when a young man, because he embraced the Sabbath, the faith of his godly mother. Hearing of the Union College, he determined to go. By earnest work during the school sessions and by canvassing during vacations, he succeeded in spending several years in school and in finishing the highest course. He became a teacher, and has had the great privilege of guiding hundreds of young people in the path of knowledge, and of leading many to the Saviour.

There is room in the ranks of successful workers for you. Your determination and willingness will help you to win your way. The Master's work requires haste, and He longs to have you enlist under this banner; "The advent message to all the world in this generation; for the love of Christ constraineth us."

The admonition comes to you, "Remember now thy Creator in the

days of thy youth." That will be your true success. Train yourself to be a worker in the cause of your Master, whose sole aim was to save you with the rest of the world. To carry out His aim, He found it necessary to give up His life. Let nothing stand between you and your preparation for service. Regard every difficulty as a blessing; make your way by improving every opportunity where you are. Have a definite aim, and become a successful worker for Christ.

MRS. LILLIE GEORGE BLUE.

A Noble Army

"A noble army, men and boys,
The matron and the maid,
Will 'round the Saviour's throne rejoice,
In robes of light arrayed;
They climbed the steep ascent of heaven
Through peril, toil, and pain;
O God, to us may grace be given
To follow in their train."

A Missionary Pumpkin

(For the Juniors)

EVERY one will agree that the pumpkin in the following true story told by Miss Leola Winne, an East Michigan teacher, was the means of doing good missionary service both at home and abroad.

"A little boy sat in church listening to the appeal of a missionary for funds for the heathen. His heart was deeply touched, and he longed to be able to help the little children who were neglected and abused because their parents had never heard of the Saviour. But Harold lived with his grandmother, who was old and very poor. So he knew he could not give any money. But when the plate was being passed, he showed a pumpkin seed to his teacher. 'I haven't anything but this to give,' said he. 'It is a good kind to plant. Perhaps the heathen like pumpkin pies.' His teacher suggested that he plant it himself and sell the pumpkins he raised, and give the money. So that evening Harold sought out a good place in his grandmother's untidy back yard in which to plant his treasure. He rejoiced in the earliest green shoots, removing everything in the way of the vine. Soon that corner of the yard was swept and garnished, for a missionary pumpkin must have a clean place in which to grow. Then Harold, seeing that there was still a chance for improvement,

set about to clean up the whole space, carrying away and burning rubbish, piling up wood, until his arms were tired and his back ached. But he was rewarded with as tidy a back yard as one could wish to see. From his missionary garden he was developing habits of neatness.

"Little Harold raised a mammoth pumpkin that took first prize at the county fair. Its story was told, and it was sold at auction, bringing him two pounds for the heathen."—*Christian Educator, April, 1916.*

Sabbath-School Missionary Exercises

(December 2)

Fu-chau Mission

THE Chinese mission field claims our interest especially this morning, as it is part of the great Asiatic Division which our Sabbath-school is pledged to help with its offerings. The following interesting report of the work in that field has been written by Pastor J. E. Fulton:

"One of the most interesting places in all China, in our experience, is the Fu-chau district. Fu-chau is on the Min River, a principal river of Fukien Province. There are a number of towns of considerable size farther up the river, but Fu-chau is the metropolis, and with its suburbs has more than eight hundred thousand inhabitants. It is the largest coast city in China south of Shanghai, and is the capital of Fukien Province.

"Pastor N. P. Keh, our Chinese minister, labours here, with occasional visits from Pastor W. C. Hankins, superintendent of the Fukien Mission, and Pastor B. L. Anderson, the director of the South China field. A strong work has been built up under the leadership of native workers. There are more than one hundred baptized members in the city of Fu-chau, and many others are interested in studying the truth.

"But perhaps the most inspiring feature of the work is that of teaching. A number of young men and boys were won to the truth, and a good school under an experienced Chinese teacher was started. Now the school has grown until there are 140 boys boarding in the school, and about thirty others

are attending as day students. All of these are paying their way; and were it not that we are in rented quarters, the school would be entirely self-supporting. There is a staff of ten Chinese teachers. Brother Tsng, the headmaster, has a model school. The writer spent part of five days there, and never has he seen a school conducted in better order.

"The school occupies a large Chinese residence, but the accommodations for such a large number are altogether inadequate. Students dine in six different places, here and there in vacant corners of the building, eight at a table, the tables being three feet square. The sleeping accommodations are also distressingly crowded, according to any standard with which we are acquainted. Every little nook and corner available is used, even the little lofts above, and down in the ante-rooms and hallways. Yet everything is clean; and how pleased I was to see the soap, towels, tooth-brushes, etc., so much in evidence.

"Daily, after their noonday meal, all the 170 students assemble in the chapel to answer to the roll call. They make a graceful bow to their headmaster, who reciprocates by bowing to them. Then they take their seats, and the roll call begins, each standing as he answers. The roll call finished, they arise at a signal, bow again to their teacher, and pass out, beginning at the front and going out in perfect order, two abreast.

"This school is a light in the heart of a great city of nearly a million people. As a rule, missions are doing little in the cities in winning new converts among the older people, but by the education of the young much is accomplished. Shall we not learn a lesson here? Thirty of these bright boys have already given their hearts to God, and we are sure there are many others deeply impressed and desirous of following the light. During our meetings, these boys were very responsive to our appeals, and all expressed a desire to have a home in the kingdom of God.

"Are not all impressed with the opportunity before us in the large city of Fu-chau, and willing to help provide facilities to meet the urgent need? Fu-chau is the centre of a great awakening, and presents an urgent need. Will not this appeal to our brethren as a Macedonian call and a great responsibility?"

(December 9)

Trip up the Pearl River to Canton

IN the following report Pastor J. E. Fulton places before us the fact that China needs the third angel's message. Millions are dying in heathenism. This morning an opportunity is given to our Sabbath-schools to show their love for the Master by giving their offerings to help send the third angel's message to this dark corner of the earth:

"In company with Pastor B. L. Anderson and Brethren A. L. Ham and P. V. Thomas, I left Hongkong by the night steamer for Canton.

"As I stood on the deck of the steamer, gazing out at the strange craft and the men rushing hither and thither in quest of their daily food, I spied in the water just ahead of our steamer a black object floating. Leaning over the steamer's rail, I saw it was the body of a man; and as the waves made by our steamer washed over the body, it was caused to move up and down so as to be more plainly visible. I glanced upward to the English captain, but he gave the body hardly a casual glance, and passed on. I then watched the small sampans and other boats which were passing near, but they, too, were busy, and left the body to float on. Nobody seemed to be disturbed by this common sight. Poor fellow! no one to give him even the burial of a criminal. He may have been robbed and drowned; may have fallen overboard; or, in the desperation that hunger brings, may have chosen to end his life. Some mother's son gone,—but more, one who might have become an adopted son of God had closed his life's record. This is only a common incident in the history of this people. There is a fearful lack of sympathy. Men and women grow callous.

"The world is waiting to be loved. When Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion. Are our hearts thus moved? What a call for missionaries with the spirit of Jesus in their hearts!

"For a number of years Seventh-day Adventists have been established here, with mission headquarters at Tung-shan, just outside the city, and a boys' school in the city. Here some fine young men and boys are receiving an education in the mes-

sage and in those things essential to make them efficient workers. Some are supporting themselves by canvassing in this great city. Great possibilities are before us in the circulation of our literature, and we are glad our young men are receiving a training to engage in this important branch of our work. Not only does it become, as in our enlightened countries, a great missionary enterprise, but also a means of livelihood to those struggling for an education.

"Our girls' school is located in connection with the mission headquarters. The school is greatly crowded, and numbers who could pay their way are being refused entrance. An addition to the present building is urgently needed. The girls look very bright and happy. Some are engaged in lace-making, others in weaving cloth. Some very strong cloth of nice patterns is made by our girls.

"Canton is an important centre, and our work in it is progressing. Great opportunities are opening up before us."

(December 16)

Japan

OUR Australasian Sabbath-schools have this year been given the privilege of helping to support our missions in some of the darkest and most needy fields. Pastor Boettcher, who has recently returned to the United States from Russia, gives the following pen picture of some of the conditions in Japan, which is a part of the great Asiatic Division in which this morning's offerings will be used:

"While I was in Japan in June of this year, I visited the studio of a photographer, and saw upon the wall an enlarged copy of a picture of a little Japanese boy with a pack on his back. I was told that it represented the pilgrim in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." The father of this little Japanese boy is a Christian. He dressed his little son so as to represent how the father felt when Christianity found him, and then took his picture. The pack on the little boy's back well represents heathenism. It is a heavy load to be borne. He does not know how to get rid of it.

"The worship of the Japanese people reminds one very much of what we see in the Catholic Church.

They have shrines to which they come to worship. Prominent among them is the shrine of the Goddess of Mercy, a large image made of wood. It is supposed to perform all kinds of cures. While I was visiting one of the temples in Tokio, a woman stepped up to this shrine and first rubbed her hand against the image on the place corresponding to the sore spot on her own body, and then she rubbed the afflicted place on her own body. Another woman came and put her fingers where the eyes of the image are supposed to have been (the whole face is worn away so that neither eyes, ears, nor nose remain), then she put her fingers on the eyes of a little boy who was standing by her side. We felt very sorry for these poor people, who are not only sick in their bodies, but also sick in their souls. In one corner of the temple were priests selling written prayers. A person casts money into a box nearby, then a priest draws out a number corresponding to a box where another priest is seated, and he pulls out the prayer and hands it to the person. These prayers are fastened to the shrine of Buddha or taken home. The people burn candles and incense before their gods, and bring money to appease them, but go away without peace of mind or healing of the body.

"The Christian missionary goes to these people with the open Bible, and brings to them a living Saviour and eternal hope. Our missionaries are doing a good work teaching the gospel both in private and in public. Let us work and pray that many pilgrims may start out for the Celestial City, leaving all behind, to receive the joy that never ends."

(December 23)

Good News from a Far Country

"BROTHER F. A. Detamore, the superintendent of our Malaysian Mission, writes of the great awakening in Borneo where he had been visiting recently. He says it is wonderful how the message is going, and adds, 'We can hardly keep pace with it. At Sarawak, the place where Brother R. P. Montgomery was not able to work on account of his health, there are about forty who have begun to keep the Sabbath.

We are urging a Chinese dentist to go there to practice. His wife, who is a Bible worker, can instruct the believers, so they will become established in the faith. Then I will go over and baptize them.'

'At another place not far from Singapore there are fifteen or twenty who have begun to obey the message. We have in Singapore a young Chinaman who has gone around to many different islands with our literature, especially taking subscriptions for the Chinese *Signs of the Times*. The result is that there are many Sabbath-keepers in the different places where he has faithfully sown the seed.

'Sister G. A. Wood writes from the East Java Mission: 'A boy who has been receiving the *Messenger of Truth* came here about a month ago from Timor. He was a teacher in a government school, but left his position, as he could not keep the Sabbath. He came here in a small boat, for the purpose of learning more about the truth. His plan was then to go back and tell his people what he had learned. He has been staying with us, and has shown himself a bright and earnest pupil. Now he has decided to go to school, so he will leave for Singapore, all being well, next Friday. Just now he is busy making some clothes for himself, so you see he is very handy. He wants to work his way through school. That is what usually makes men out of boys; but we shall be glad to help him a little, if he should need help. It will rejoice your hearts to hear that the paper, *Messenger of Truth*, is doing good, and I know you will unite with us in praying for this boy that he may be sincere, and be able to return to his own land to give the message there.'

'Will not you who hear this good news unite in prayer for this young man? Before I left Java I had several letters from him, stating that he wanted to obey the truth. Now we see that the seed was sown in good ground and has sprung up. Oh, what a precious message! When it first enters the heart, with its sweet convincing influence and impressive power, it brings a perfume of heavenly joy and love, and an atmosphere of peace. When such a message comes to a man or woman, whether the skin be white or black, brown or yellow, the first thought is to give it to others.'

From the foregoing report from

Sister Tunheim we learn that truly the Lord is going before us in this great needy mission field to prepare the hearts of the people to receive the message. Shall we not pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers, and as we pray, let us give liberally of our means this morning to support these labourers that the message may quickly go to the ends of the earth and our Lord come to gather out His people.

(December 30)

The Call of the East

IT is our firm conviction that the present is the hour of opportunity for pushing forward the work of God in the vast mission field of the Far East. It seems to us that if this opportunity is promptly seized and pressed to its full measure, the gain to our cause will be far greater than we can possibly conceive. On the other hand, if we fail now to step into these openings which the providence of God has created, the loss will be very great, and we fear that we shall have to do later, under greater difficulties, the work we can now carry on under favourable conditions.

In the territory which we have included in the Asiatic Division there is a population of upwards of ten hundred millions—two-thirds of the human race.

Nearly all these teeming millions are heathen. They are intensely religious, but they grope in the darkness of superstition and idolatry. To a very large extent the masses are without education. In both city and country life, they are so far behind modern civilized life that the transformation and uplift they must have presents a tremendous task. In many respects this is unquestionably the most difficult field in the world to evangelize. But this work, great and difficult as it is, must be done, and Seventh-day Adventists have put their hands to this task. We have now entered the largest and most important divisions of this great field. While we have made only a beginning, our cause is now deeply rooted and permanently established in all the places we have entered. The number of people in all these countries who have already embraced the message, their consecration to it, and their eagerness to join us in the finishing

of the work, are convincing evidences to us that thousands more in these lands are waiting for the light, and that when the earth is reaped there will be a great harvest of redeemed, rejoicing souls from the terrible heathenism in which these people are now groping.

As people have taken their stand for the message, demands that must be met have begun to press upon the missionaries. Church buildings must be erected, in order to hold the new believers together. Training schools must be developed, to prepare these people to labour for their own countrymen; and this means teachers, buildings, equipment. Literature must be produced in the many languages, and this calls for printing offices, workers, equipment.

Every new country entered means new needs, new problems, new calls. As we have come face to face with these conditions, and have tried to meet them, we have become most deeply convinced that the time has come to inaugurate a larger and stronger programme for this great mission field. It seems to us that Isa. 54:2, 3 has a greater meaning to the church of Christ to-day than ever before: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles." This, we believe, is God's programme for His people to-day in behalf of the ten hundred millions of heathen in Asia. We must "enlarge" and "lengthen" and "strengthen."

And we must do it now. In such an hour as this we dare not counsel retrenchment, nor even standing still. We must press forward rapidly and do a quick work. Never before has the church faced such opportunities and possibilities; nor has she ever faced such vast responsibilities. The day of the Lord's preparation is here. The hour of His judgment has come.

One great need is more money. It will need self-denial; it will need courage, faith, hard work; but the results will repay abundantly. We are near the end of the struggle. Brethren and sisters, make this coming year a record year in giving.

A. G. DANIELLS.

Young People's Day

(Sabbath, December 9)

Suggestive Programme

(For the Church Service, not the Missionary Volunteer Society.)

Song: "Christ in Song," No. 480.

Scripture Lesson: Joel 2: 12-17, 28-32; Isa. 49: 24, 25.

Prayer.

Reading: "What the Missionary Volunteer Work Is Accomplishing," M. E. Kern.

Special Music.

Reading: "The Missionary Volunteer Work and the Mission Fields," A. G. Daniells.

"Missionary Volunteer Department in Australasia."

Song: "Christ in Song," No. 678.

Closing Prayer.

NOTE TO CHURCH ELDER OR WORKER.—Sabbath, December 9, appointed by the Australasian Union Conference Committee as Missionary Volunteer Day, should bring a great blessing to your church. The work to receive special attention upon this day is an important one, and grows more and more interesting as it spreads over the world, gripping the hearts of thousands and thousands of young people and children and leading them forth in Christian service. The parts of this programme should be assigned at once to insure careful preparation.

Decision days have often brought good results. Then let us make Missionary Volunteer Day a time when our young people shall be invited publicly to give their hearts to the Lord.

Emphasize the fact mentioned by Pastor Daniells in his article that "to-day we are drawing our recruits for the mission fields almost wholly from the ranks of our young people."

We are praying that God will give your church a special blessing upon Missionary Volunteer Day and that the field in general will benefit.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT.

What Our Missionary Volunteer Work Is Accomplishing

Purpose of Our Young People's Organization

TWENTY-FOUR years ago the church began to receive messages concerning the organization of its youth. Here and there efforts were made to carry out this instruction. Fifteen years ago the first General Conference organization for young people was formed. Nine years ago the General Conference Council at Gland, Switzerland, organized the young people's work as a separate department of the General Conference.

The object of all this was well set forth in the following statement made by the young people's convention in 1907:

"The primary object of our young people's societies is the salvation and development of our youth by means of prayer, study, and personal missionary effort."

The object, then, of our efforts for the young people is twofold,—their salvation and their development as Christian workers. The means suggested for the attainment of these ends is set forth as *prayer, study, and personal missionary effort*. This simple statement corresponds to the threefold division of our missionary volunteer work,—*devotional, educational, and organized missionary effort*.

It is fitting that, on Missionary Volunteer Day, we consider the *purpose* of this department of our cause, the *means* for the accomplishment of the ends in view, and the *results* obtained.

The Salvation of the Children and Youth

The great object of all our work is that our children and young people be saved. We recognize that a change of heart and the reception of the Holy Spirit are fundamental, and that earnest evangelistic work must be carried forward in their behalf. And the young people who are converted are organized that they, in turn, may seek to save other young people.

The exact results of this work for and by the young people cannot be known. We have endeavoured to learn how many young people are converted and added to the church each quarter. The reports from the North American Division indicate that in 1914 1,814 young people had been converted, and in 1915 more than 2,200 were brought within the fold.

A large ingathering of young people is taking place in all parts of the world. In the Philippine Islands many young people are accepting the truth and are developing into good workers. Young people of China, Japan, Korea, India, Africa, South America, and other countries have shown their willingness to suffer persecution rather than disobey the Lord, and are consecrating their services for the salvation of others.

Devotional Features

We recognise that when young people are converted, they have simply made a start to live the Christian life. Like all new Christians, they need instruction and experience. We have endeavoured to place before them such plans as would help them to maintain a victorious Christian experience.

Prayer and consecration services are a part of the society programme. Prayer bands are encouraged. An effort is made to get every one to observe the morning watch. The Morning Watch Calendar, which is published each year as an aid in keeping a daily appointment with God, has met with a ready sale. Over fifty thousand of the English edition have been sold in a single year, besides other thousands in Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Danish-Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, etc.

Educational Features

Our young people have responded splendidly to the efforts put forth to provide for them good reading. The Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses, including books of devotion, missions, travel, religious history, and nature, have attracted many of our youth from the cheap literature of the day, and have cultivated a taste for that which is wholesome and uplifting. A young woman just leaving for the mission field says that her first interest in missions was awakened by the Missionary Volunteer Reading Course. Aside from English Junior and Senior Courses, Reading Courses have been conducted in Japanese, Chinese, Danish-Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish, etc.

Many of our young people have been willing to study as well as to read. Privately, and in groups, hundreds have studied Bible doctrines and denominational history, and have passed examinations in these two fundamental subjects, thus becoming members of Attainment. One busy young person worked till one o'clock in the morning, and another until three, on the self-chosen task of writing out their Standard of Attainment examination papers. The Australasian field has now introduced the Standard of Attainment, and many energetic young people are starting the prescribed work.

Organized Missionary Work

"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." It is the purpose of our Missionary Volunteer Department to train the inexperienced to bear the yoke. Mrs. E. G. White has said, "When the youth give their hearts to God, your care for them should not cease. Lay some responsibility upon them. Make them feel that they are expected to do something. The Lord chooses them because they are strong. Teach them to labour in a quiet, unpretending way, for their young companions. Let different branches of the missionary work be laid out systematically, and let instruction and help be given, so that the young may learn to act a part. Thus they will grow up to be workers for God." This instruction is very clear.

It is evident that our Missionary Volunteer Societies are doing much to accomplish these results. One worker writes, "The young people of this conference are learning that they can help in giving the third angel's message." What a blessed thing to learn! A conference president in a foreign field writes, "The young people are truly becoming a tower of strength in the giving of this message."

The Missionary Volunteer secretary in one of our small conferences writes, "Two societies are taking such an interest in the present campaign with the Present Truth Series that they are working other small towns beside their own. Even the junior members are going out with the older ones with these special papers. We expect to have calls for Bible readings in the near future as a result of this work." Another says, "One of our girls who thought she could not do anything but give music lessons has taken up the work of giving Bible readings in her own town and is so enthusiastic that she is trying to get some one to take her music class so that she can give more time to the Bible work."

A young man in Brazil left a good place in the custom house and worked with pick and shovel in order to keep the Sabbath. He is now a successful colporteur, and is begging for a minister to go to the interior, where he has been selling books, and where there are more than thirty persons who have quit their drink and tobacco and are keeping the Sabbath.

There are now more than a thousand Missionary Volunteer Societies in the world, with a membership of about 20,000 young people. The reports show that in the last two years these young people have made over 360,000 missionary visits, conducted 81,000 Bible readings and cottage meetings, distributed more than 2,500,000 papers, spent 300,000 hours in Christian help work, given over £8,720 to foreign missions, and nearly £4,240 to home missions, and to other kinds of work in the same proportion.

While our reports do not represent all that has been done, and while we fall far short of what we can, and, I believe, will do, still this report ought to encourage us all to realize the truth of the statement made years ago, that "we have an army of youth to-day who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged."

All round the world young people are joining the ranks of our missionary volunteer army. May the day speedily come when this ever-increasing army shall be well equipped with the Christian's armour, and doing its part in the finishing work of the gospel.

M. E. KERN.

The Missionary Volunteer Work and the Mission Fields

WHAT the Missionary Volunteer Department is doing to furnish consecrated, educated, trained young men and women for soul-winning work in the mission fields is the point selected for special emphasis in this article.

It is difficult for any one to form a just estimate of the value of the early impressions made on the minds of the young people regarding the great need for Christian workers in heathen lands. Not until one sees these young people doing splendid service in the mission fields can this be fully realized. It has been my privilege to follow some of our young people from the day they received their first impression or conviction of the claims of the mission fields upon their lives until they were rendering most valiant service for lost men and women in heathen lands. It is when one sees what may be called the finished product in the mission field that one is able to place a

proper value on the efforts made by the workers in the homeland to lead the young people to dedicate their lives to the work of the Master.

The Missionary Volunteer Department of our world-wide movement was created and is being maintained primarily for the welfare of our young people. Present, personal salvation from the power of sin is the chief object the department has in view for every young person in our ranks. Another important attainment for which the department constantly labours is to encourage every young person to secure a well-balanced education. A third object which is never lost sight of is a thoroughly practical training for the particular service each may be called to render in soul-winning work.

These we believe and earnestly declare to our young people, to be the three most important objectives in the life we now live. They are the great essentials, the fundamentals for which every person should strive more earnestly than for anything else.

The gospel is a world-wide problem. "God so loved the world." "Look unto Me, and be saved, *all the ends of the earth.*" "Go ye into *all the world*, and preach the gospel to every creature." This is the phraseology of the Bible regarding the scope of the gospel. This language seems to have greater meaning, more constraining, impelling force to-day than ever before. The vision of Seventh-day Adventists reaches the uttermost parts of the earth.

In its endeavours to help furnish recruits for mission fields the Missionary Volunteer Society begins at the beginning—the conversion of the children. It is the earnest desire of all the workers in this department to see every child in our ranks converted to God. In the homes and the churches, at the camp-meetings and all general gatherings, constant effort is made to lead the children and young people to give their hearts to the Lord. Through reading matter, by personal interviews, and in public appeals, we seek to give the reasons why every person should be a genuine, whole-hearted Christian. This is, and must be, the starting point. And how many thousands of hearts are made to rejoice by the turning of so many of our children to the Lord!

The next step is to encourage these converts to fill their minds

with good thoughts and useful information. To this end good reading matter is selected or prepared, and placed before them. The Morning Watch is a great help to thousands. The excellent books in the Reading Courses furnish them the inspiration and strong uplift they need. The Standard of Attainment plan stimulates them to put forth earnest efforts for the accomplishment of definite results. And in addition to all this every encouragement is given these children and young people to lay hold of the full benefits to be derived from our schools. In private conversations, in public addresses, in circular letters, and in articles in our papers, a steady, positive influence is brought to bear upon our young people to put forth every effort to secure a good education.

The climax of all this effort is to lead these young people to dedicate their lives to the work of the Lord. The Lord's work is explained in His Word as follows: "God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth." Ps. 74:12. It is the settled purpose of the Missionary Volunteer Department to help, as far as possible, every young person in our cause to dedicate his talents, life, time, and means to the saving of the lost. It is recognized that not all can go to foreign lands, not all can leave their homes and engage in public work in the homeland. But all—every one—can live and labour and pray for the lost. The farmer can till the soil and garner his crops with the purpose in view of contributing every shilling possible to the support of the gospel work. Every believer engaged in business can live with this object uttermost in mind. This object is inculcated in the lives of young people by the missionary volunteer financial goal set each year, and also by the many direct, specific calls for gifts that are placed before them.

A partial result of all this effort is the large number of young men and women of good education, practical training, and whole-hearted consecration, that we are now sending to our numerous mission fields. Today we are drawing our recruits for the mission fields almost wholly from the ranks of our young people. They are the ones who can learn difficult languages, endure privations, and adapt themselves most readily to new and strange conditions. And

our hearts are filled with rejoicing as we see hundreds of them not only willing, but very anxious to leave home and friends and creature comforts, to give their lives in sacrifice and toil for lost men and women in heathen lands. There is nothing in this world so noble, so grand, so good, as such a spirit and such a life. All this is from the Saviour Himself. And He is imparting it to our young people through the channels of His church. The Missionary Volunteer Society is one of these channels. Eternity alone will give a full revelation of what the department is doing for our own dear people, and through them for millions of others.

Surely every believer in our cause should make a studied effort to help carry forward the work of this department to the fullest degree of success. A. G. DANIELLS.

Missionary Volunteer Department in Australasia

Our Work for 1917

WHAT the Lord can accomplish through the young of His flock cannot be gauged by figures, nor can we by looking over statistics begin to realize what the harvest from the past years of sowing will be. The Lord says, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand."

The morn of an eternal day has dawned upon the truly converted missionary volunteer. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye *have* eternal life." The ushering in of the glad eternity comes (by faith) when the heart is fully surrendered to God, the invigorating influence which is imparted through the divine touch,—that breath of heavenly atmosphere,—is that which savours of the spring, the time of sowing.

In times past much seed has been sown by our missionary volunteers, a harvest has been seen, but the harvest which the Lord sees is greater than that which meets the human vision.

The coming year should be a year of good things for our missionary volunteers. We have much work to do, much seed to sow, and the resolution for each of us to make is, "I must do my part."

During the past year we have been greatly encouraged at the way in which the young people have responded to the Reading Course and Bible Study. The increase on the previous year in the number taking the Reading Course examination was 160 per cent, and on the Bible Study examination 60 per cent. The total for the year for the Reading Course was 666, and for the Bible Study 1,762. This is a splendid showing. We would like all our young people to take both the Reading Course and Bible Study for the coming year. The membership of our societies, including associate members, numbers 3,225. It would be truly encouraging if all were reading the good books chosen and studying the weekly texts.

The Standard of Attainment

The Standard of Attainment is new to the young people of Australasia, but we hope that many will commence immediately to reach the standard set. In order to obtain the Standard of Attainment certificate it will be necessary to pass an examination on twelve Bible Studies, and on each of the following books: "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation," "Great Controversy," "Steps to Christ," "Life Sketches of Ellen G. White," "Here and Hereafter," "The Lord's Day," "The Change of the Sabbath," and "The Truth Found."

In order that the reader may obtain a better command of language we have introduced into this course a study of English which will be conducted from the Union Conference office. This will assist all those who desire to become foreign missionaries in learning a foreign language, as it is almost impossible for one to learn a new language unless he is well acquainted with his mother tongue.

To gain the Standard of Attainment certificate it will, no doubt, be necessary for the reader to spend one or two years in study, but this certificate will be of great value to the possessor. Already many anxious inquiries have been made by enthusiastic young people, as the following few extracts will show:

One young girl says:

I am enjoying the study on "Thoughts on Daniel" very much. . . . I wish to take the Standard of Attainment on the books mentioned. I am aiming for the highest marks for "Thoughts on Daniel" and am determined to get them.

Another writes:

I read the article, "For the Australasian Young People," in the *Record* and I am so glad to know that the Conference has made provision for those of us who have not the privilege of attending school. I am especially glad for this because it means so much to young people like myself. I now have ten Bible Study certificates, and in a little more than a quarter I shall have twelve. Since reading the article in the *Record* I have read "Steps to Christ" through, and am reading "Life Sketches of Ellen G. White." Next I intend to read "Here and Hereafter," then "Great Controversy," and the three pamphlets, and just continue the Reading Course as usual. In this way I shall be through by the end of the year. Do you think I can get the first certificate?

Still another writes:

I think I shall try for the Standard of Attainment, and would like to know when to start reading the first book, prices of books, etc., and any other information which might be helpful, as I did not see the *Record* giving these particulars. I have thirteen Bible Study certificates, but have not taken the Reading Courses. It will be hard work for me because the summer is a very busy season on a dairy farm, but I shall try. Will you please send me one of your latest catalogues?

Will not all the young people who wish to consecrate themselves to God's work begin now with these others to reach the standard set.

Our Offerings for the Year

At our Union Conference Council in September of this year a strong plea was made by Pastor G. F. Jones, superintendent of the Melanesian Mission, for more workers for the islands of that field, and also for funds to enable us to open up the work in other islands in this dark corner of the Lord's vineyard. Pastor Jones has been working in the Solomon Islands for some time, and many of the natives who a few months ago were in heathen darkness, are now anxious to become Christians. As we must not, however, limit our efforts to one group in the Melanesian field, it was decided to purchase a large mission boat in order that Brother and Sister Jones may carry the message to islands yet unworked.

The Union Conference has invited the missionary volunteers to donate their offerings to a fund for the purchase of this boat, and we feel sure that all will heartily co-operate in this good work. The cost of the boat will be approximately two thousand pounds, and in order to raise this amount we shall need to double our yearly offerings.

If each member of the Missionary Volunteer Department, including associate and isolated members, were to raise at least one pound during the year for this fund we should have ample. We would like all to do as much as possible to swell the fund.

The boat will belong to the young people, and each will receive a receipt for the money he puts into this fund. Cards will be handed to each one desirous of having shares. There will be eight thousand shares of five-shillings each. Each card when filled and returned to the missionary volunteer leader will represent four shares in the boat. These cards will be kept at the Conference office for reference so that at any time in the future we can tell how many shares each missionary volunteer has in the boat.

The young people, we feel sure, will esteem it a great privilege to be able to earn money for a boat to carry our island missionaries to the dark fields of Melanesia.

We would like all those who are helping in the raising of funds to do so by selling literature and earning money in other ways. This is a much better plan than collecting the money from people outside. In selling literature it would be proper to tell the purchaser that the proceeds are to be donated to the purchase of a mission boat.

While we are selling literature for this purpose we are placing in the hands of the people truth-laden pages, which is the very best kind of seed-sowing. The magazines and papers sold in this way should also be reported as missionary work done.

We must always keep in mind the object of our missionary work. Our object in buying a boat is that we may send the truth to those who are in darkness. Shall we not, then, while raising the money with which to purchase a boat, endeavour to acquaint others with the truth by selling them our literature?

May God bless the work of the young people of His flock, and when the sowing is past and the joyful time of harvest has come, may each of us be able to place our hands on some sheaves which have been gathered through our efforts. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand."

F. KNIGHT.

Fourth Sabbath Reading

(December 23)

Bible Study

Proofs of Sonship

1. BY what means did Abraham attain to righteousness? Gal. 3:6.
2. What had God told Abraham, the believing of which was accounted to him for righteousness? Gal. 3:16.
3. If we believe, what do we become? Gal. 3:26.
4. If we are the children of God, whose seed are we? Gal. 3:29.
5. Of what is the one who believes an heir? Rom. 4:13.
6. Who is associated with the believer in his inheritance? Rom. 8:17.
7. In what other partnership will the believer be associated with Christ? 1 Cor. 3:9.
8. How shall we know that we believe and are the children of Abraham? John 8:39.
9. What did Abraham do?
He believed God.
He paid tithes in support of God's work.
He devoted his life to missionary effort.

In the Market Place in Nigeria, West Africa

THOSE labouring for the salvation of fallen humanity are ever on the alert, seeking opportunities to tell the love of God in giving His dear Son to save us from sin.

Through the advice of the governor of Ilorin-Kabba Province, we opened our mission station at Shao, eight miles from Ilorin. It took several hours to make this journey, as there was only a narrow native path among thorns and thickets, and in hot burning sand. Mrs. Babeock and our little boys rode in a hammock carried by four stalwart Hauser men.

We reached the government rest-house at Shao late in the afternoon, and would have enjoyed a good night's rest but for the howl of a toonear-by hyena. Brother Morgue-Vimean had preceded us a few days and obtained permission to hold meetings in the market place. Like Paul at Athens we saw idol houses everywhere. From the first up to the present (over seven months) every meeting in the town has been attended by hundreds.

We told them of the earth as it came from the hands of God, of His glory seen everywhere, and of the

happy home of our first parents. The meetings soon made a deep impression upon the minds of the people. The old chief, upwards of eighty years, is never absent except on account of sickness or death of some one. Around the old man seated in the centre are gathered his head men, his advisers. We told them how good it was to have a God that could hear us when we pray, that could see us, and feel our infirmities with His loving heart. Hearty amens are often expressed, and when we show them why they should worship such a God in place of the god of thunder or the god of fire, with one hearty demonstration of their preference to the living God, hundreds of hands are shot up into the air.

Idol houses are being torn down, and on a recent visit to the old chief with our company of workers, I was about to admonish the old man to tear down the idol house in his compound, and to make my words emphatic I turned toward the idol house, and to my great surprise it was completely demolished. I took the old chief by the hand and thanked God. While there was a laugh at my surprise, yet behind it all were tears in the old chief's eyes. It was truly a happy moment, an experience long to be remembered, a victory through Christ our risen Saviour. And you, dear brother, sister, may have a part in this victory, for it is because of your prayers for the weary soldiers of the cross at the front, and your consecrated means given for the finishing of this work for the salvation of souls and of a lost world, that enables us to tell these dear people the story of the cross. Dear reader, continue to pray, continue consecrating yourself and your means to this mighty work. D. C. BABCOCK.

Stirring Experiences at the Lake Titicaca Mission

MANY very urgent calls have come from more distant places during the past two years, and in view of the encouragement we received from the Mission Board that additional labourers and means were being provided, we decided to look after some of these.

On the morning of May 15, with Mrs. Stahl and three natives, I

started for Qinwani, some eighty-five miles south of Plateria. This place is on Lake Titicaca, on the border of Bolivia, three miles from Yunguvo, a very important border town. We could not go direct, as we had promised to visit other places, some of them far from the main road into the mountain region.

Our first stop was at Ulave, where we found a large family interested in the truth. They begged us to stay over night, which we did, helping them in every way we could. The next day we arrived at Juli, an important centre on the lake shore, with many thousands of Indians living near. The town itself has only about one hundred and fifty inhabitants, but there are four large Catholic church buildings. We have one Indian sister living in Juli, and we ought to have a mission there, as many of the people, both whites and Indians, have asked for a worker.

We were next to stop at Qollvini, thirty miles from Juli. After we had gone about ten miles we met some Indians waiting for us. They had been waiting in the road for some days having heard that we were coming to see them. They accompanied us, running beside the horses and keeping up easily the whole twenty miles. It was after dark when we arrived, and the Indians were delighted to see us, especially Mrs. Stahl, whom they and the Indians at Qinwani had especially invited to visit them. This was Mrs. Stahl's first long trip of roughing it. They tried to make her comfortable in every way, but of course the very best they have is very rough and crude, nothing but the ground floor to sleep on, with the cold mountain winds blowing into the hut.

Nothing much grows in these high cold regions, and we could not take much baggage in the way of food stuffs. It is a problem to get feed for the horses. But the Lord does help as we work on for Him in the most trying conditions.

We held meetings every day with these people, whom we found well informed in regard to the truth, our native worker, Luciano Chambi, having done splendid work for them some months before. On Sabbath we baptized twenty-seven dear people, and organized a church of twenty-nine members, two having been baptized at Plateria a year be-

fore. The next day we opened a school with seventeen children, and the enrolment has now grown to forty. We placed in charge a strong native worker, Markus Sintino, and I expect to visit them often until we can place a good foreign worker there, as it is an important centre for work among the Indians. We left them very happy. "Now we have a real school with us, and the true church," they said. They told us they were so tired of idols, images of stone and wood and mud; they were happy indeed to know the true God. One thing that makes the Indian happy above all other things, is to learn that he, the poor down-trodden Indian, can go to God just as he is, without having to talk to dead saints first about his needs.

As we learn more about the condition of these Indians, and see how they are being deceived by the priests who represent the Catholic Church, it seems to us missionaries who are here that it is the most abominable of all deceptions. The system admits all manner of wickedness (at least up here) in the name of Jesus.

Just before we left Qollvini a brother came from Qinwani to guide us, and it was well that he did, for our road led through a twelve-mile swamp, and it would have been impossible for us to pick our way alone over the soft ground. It was near night when we reached Qinwani. We were very much impressed with this place and its advantages for reaching thousands of Indians. It has boat connections to Bolivia and to Puno, our railway station for the coast. There is a good market at Yunguvo, only three miles away.

We found here a good interest among the Indians. We baptized twenty-one and organized a church of twenty-two. We also opened a school, planning to leave a native in charge for a few months, until other help should arrive.

While we were at work among the Indians, we heard rumours from the town nearby that the priests were telling the people to kill us. Our people seemed to be quite nervous about it; but we told them that as we now had religious freedom in Peru there was no danger of harm, much less of being killed. However, we did not realize the viciousness and ignorance of these priests, nor to what extremes they would go.

One morning we noticed the arrival of two priests with a large multitude of people accompanying them. Many were on horseback, and some were armed with rifles and shotguns. But as there were among them lawyers, judges, and even men of authority from the nearby town, we could not believe that harm was meant for us. Besides, there was a Catholic church nearby, and we thought they had come to celebrate some service. We noticed Indians coming from all directions, until there were fully four hundred people gathered together.

The priests led the people to the church, where they talked to them for two hours, and then led them to within one block of the house where we were staying. Here they talked again, and we afterward learned that they were inciting the people to kill us, telling them it would be an honour, and that nothing would be done to punish them. After about an hour they burned a fugate [a sort of sky-rocket], which is a signal in these savage regions for attack at a bull fight or anything of that sort, and what was our surprise to see that howling mob being led by the lieutenant governor, the authority that should have protected us. He was mounted on a large horse, and was calling to the people to surround our house. We thought even then that they were only trying to scare us. But on they came, gathering large stones as they approached.

The first thing they did was to cut loose our five horses and pelt them with stones, so that they ran frightened down a ten-foot bank and galloped wildly off over the plain. I tried to stop the horses, but was attacked by the people, who struck me with stones, one stone wounding me severely on the head. I almost fell, but Mrs. Stahl pulled me into the hut and closed the door, and none too soon, for hundreds of frantic Indians had filled the yard, armed with stones and clubs. They started to beat in the door, and we piled our baggage in front, as there was no way to lock it. In a moment, however, the door was smashed through and the Indians forced their way in. At that moment I drew a revolver that I always carry because of the wild mountain dogs, and fired three shots into the air.

This frightened the Indians so that they withdrew to where the

priests were, but the priests advised them to attack us again, and on they came, carrying burning straw in their hands with which to set fire to our roof, and yelling that we would be compelled to leave our refuge, and that they had rifles to shoot us. Above the yelling of the Indians we could hear the laughing of the priests and others.

In all this time we had not forgotten to seek the Lord, and we were ready to meet death for Him if He so willed. I hastily wrote a few lines to our co-labourers at Plateria, asking them to go on with the work. Mrs. Stahl prayed and comforted the two Indian sisters who were with us in the hut. Our three native young men were brave and true, fearing only for us and praying that we might be spared.

The Indians with the burning straw climbed upon some piles of stones to light the roof, but as they were about to accomplish their purpose, the Indian women who owned the house snatched the burning straw from their hands, and in a moment others of our friends who had gathered rushed upon the enemy and drove them back. They retreated, yelling that they would return at night to finish us.

We sent messengers secretly to the next town, twelve miles away, asking for help as we had no way of escape, and I was feeling faint from loss of blood. During the lull I lay down on the floor of the hut to gain strength.

The priests withdrew, telling the Indians to be sure to finish us. But as soon as it became dark, an Indian sister, who had been baptized a few days before, came bringing our horses. She had followed them for six miles, running in the strength that the Lord gave her, as she herself said. We quickly saddled our horses, mounted, and under cover of a fierce storm escaped. We suffered intensely from the cold, as we were wet through, but we rode on and on, the lightning at times blinding us and at other times showing us the road.

We had heard that the people in the next town had risen up against us also, being influenced by the priests, so we had to pass by, our Indian brethren leading us by a secret path. After we had gone fourteen miles, Mrs. Stahl told me she was so cold and weak that she

was afraid she would fall from her horse. We had eaten nothing that day. So we stopped, spread the blankets on the wet snow, and thus passed the best part of the night. At daylight we gathered up our frozen blankets, and cold and hungry continued our journey to Juli, where we arrived about twelve o'clock. We had met no one coming to help us. As might be expected, the authorities are hand in hand with the priests in this part of the country.

But we believe that all this was permitted for the advancement of the work, and we are all of good courage. In a few weeks a mission will be opened at the very place where we were attacked. The head authorities are considerably exercised now over the affair, and the result will be greater liberty and more efficient protection for our future work. We cannot expect to go on with our work without meeting fierce opposition, for Satan is angry as he sees the truth taking hold of hundreds of these poor deceived Indians, and corruption and wickedness giving way to pure lives. "Go," is the command, and on we shall go in the strength of the Lord.

One hundred and sixteen have been baptized at this mission so far this year. Four churches have been organized, and three schools started. In all these places the work is prospering, and new calls are continually coming in. Only yesterday a Quichwa Indian came to tell us that his people are waiting for a mission. We sincerely ask an interest in the prayers of our brethren, that God will give us wisdom, and strengthen us to go forward and win souls for him.

F. A. STAHL.

"Do your most common daily duty from its divinest motive, and what a change will come!"

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