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# THE MISSIONARY SURVEY



SEPTEMBER, 1913



HOME  
MISSIONS

CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION  
AND  
MINISTERIAL  
RELIEF



FOREIGN  
MISSIONS

PUBLICATION  
AND  
SABBATH  
SCHOOL  
WORK

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AT HOME AND ABROAD

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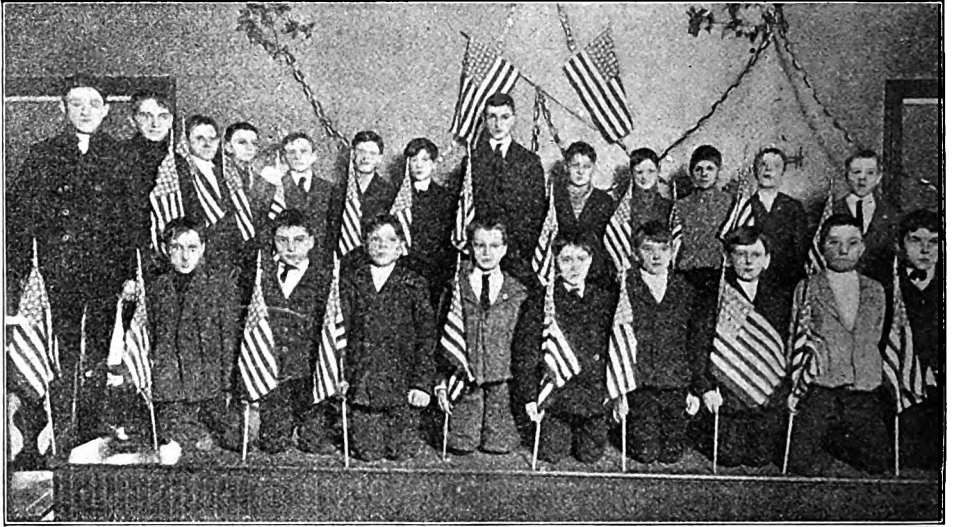
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New Americans and their adopted flag.

message with which to meet this great incoming tide of human life?

In some sections a demand is heard that, in deference to the new-comers, Bible-reading and even the singing of hymns be banished from our public schools. Were this demand granted we should present to the world the spectacle of a nominally Christian nation, in which the national system of education fails to acquaint the rising generation with the source of those ideals which are fundamental to the national life and character—ignoring the existence of that literature which has been more potent in modern civilization than any other body of literature that the world ever has known.

The great majority of our non English-speaking immigrants come from countries in which the Bible is not an open book, and in which they have had little opportunity to judge of its value. Green, the great historian of the English people, says:

"No greater moral change ever passed over a nation than passed over England during the years which parted the middle of the reign of Elizabeth from the meeting of the Long Parliament. England became the people of a book, and that book was the Bible \* \* \* Far greater than its effect on literature or social phrase was the effect of the Bible on the character of the people at large \* \* \*

its effect in this way, however dispassionately we examine it, was simply amazing. The whole temper of the nation was changed. A new conception of life and of man superseded the old. A new moral and religious impulse spread through every class."

This is the dispassionate verdict, not of an ecclesiastic but of a clear-eyed historian of national life. Does America need to-day less than England needed three hundred years ago, "a new moral and religious impulse?"

That new religious consciousness which the great historian describes as coming into England with the coming of the Bible in the common speech of the people, was strongly dominant in those who crossed the sea to make the new England on these shores. To day the old Pilgrim stock is fading out, and is being replaced by immigrants. To them, even as to the people of old England three hundred years ago, the teachings of the Bible in the speech of everyday life would fall "On ears which custom had not deadened to their force and beauty."

Protestant Christians have gloried in the independence of church and state in America. Have American churches realized their consequent obligation as well as privilege, to supply in the life of the people that which the State may fail to give?

## CHRIST IN OUR MIDST

REV. J. A. BRYAN.

**T**HE most difficult work that any Church tries to do for Christ is its greatest. The work being done among the foreigners of the South is to many minds one of the biggest tasks that

our Church, since its separate organization, has undertaken in the home land. The work is difficult from the "inside and outside." Only three out of ten of these aliens who come into the Southern States



are Christians, or even know how to be saved. Some are Romanist, the large majority are nothing. It is a sad fact that many with whom our workers have to deal here have no idea of the worship of God. Surely Jesus died to save these thousands.

Our Church is not neglecting these people. Here in the Birmingham District, Ensley, Mylan, Pratt City and old Birmingham, there are 16,000 foreigners, and 10,000 in the surrounding mining camps.

The Lord has certainly helped here in this work. There are six points from which the light shines—two night schools, three day mission schools and one kindergarten. There are 160 enrolled in these day and night mission schools and classes.

We think this a great work when we have so many obstacles. Romanism fighting us; unbelief on the part of many Christians; criticism by some, not a few. Very often the devil speaks, and declares there have been very few converts. In all, we thank God and take courage. The little children are telling the truth; a year ago some of them knew nothing of the truth. Two years ago many of the parents did not wish their children to attend our schools, now they compel them to attend.

Eleven young men, Italians and Greeks, are in one of our Sabbath school classes. They are interesting others. They sing our Gospel hymns. Two years ago they knew not a word of English. We all need a "faith that will not shrink" to do more of this work for Christ. In working among these people here we have to remember that they are not all of the same class, or from the same section of the Old World, and some are easier to reach than others. Some take to our ways of work, some do not.

We hear a great deal about the need of better equipment. We should be very faithful in using well the equipment we have. Moses did mighty things for God with an old crooked stick. The mighty God equips these out-of-the-way people in our midst.



Alice Marguerita, an Italian waif, brought to the Mercy Home in Birmingham by Salvation Army worker.

The call of God to the young people in our schools and colleges, to give their lives to this foreign work at home, is certainly loud and clear. The sessions in our city churches could organize mission Sunday schools at many points, and try to get the foreign children to attend. They are like other children, they like to have some one love them.

We see these people congregated on our streets, in our street cars, and some sections of our cities. They cry to us for help.

The faithful workers in the Birmingham missions are simply infatuated with the work. They are not discouraged. They are giving their best. Many are praying that our Church will continue to do greater things for these "strangers within our gates." The lives of many of these boys and girls are influencing their friends to higher things.

*Birmingham, Ala.*