

The
**PRESBYTERIAN
SURVEY**

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER, 1924



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Published by
EXECUTIVE AGENCIES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.

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XIV

OCTOBER, 1924

No. 10

Ten Thousand Foreign Students in United States

Many Return to Native Lands With Less Religion Than When They Came; How Best to Meet the Problem

BY EDWARD H. LOCKWOOD

Executive Secretary, Committee on Friendly Relations Among Foreign Students.

HERE are at the present time more than ten thousand students from foreign countries resident in the colleges of the United States who will in a few years return to the countries from which they have come each one of them carrying an im-

pression of the social, religious and economic life of their country and expressing their own impression to their fellow-countrymen upon their return. A census made for the school year 1923-24 showed that seven thousand, five hundred students were distributed from one hundred and fifty different countries. In addition to this number the Secretaries of the Friendly Relations Committee Among Foreign Students estimate that there are more than three thousand students who are studying in trade schools or technical courses in schools which were not touched by the census.

Of the seven and a half thousand students reported in the census twelve hundred are graduate students. The largest national group are the Chinese who total about one hundred and the next largest number are the eight hundred Canadians. Japanese and Filipinos each number about six hundred and All of the Latin American Republics and most of the countries of Europe and the Near East are represented. Many of the Chinese students come to the United States at government expense as do some of the Filipinos and South Americans but a large percentage of the foreign student group come at the expense of parents or

friends or are self-supporting students. Probably this self-supporting group is the largest among the Filipinos where according to a survey this year eighty-seven per cent were entirely self-supporting after arrival in this country.

Conversations with foreign students who have been Christians when they came to America reveal that many have less faith or have become agnostic before completing their study in our colleges. Very few of those who are non-Christians at the time of their arrival become Christians in this country.

The greatest single service for foreign students can be rendered only through friendship given them by the Christian people of America. Those who serve with the home can never know what influences they have set in motion in the lives of students who have returned to serve the church in mission lands.

While the tendency of foreign students is to gather together in the larger universities which, for the most part, are located in the metropolitan areas there are also many foreign students distributed throughout all parts of the United States. New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Berkeley have in their schools a large percentage of the foreign students but they can be found in forty-seven states of the union and in the District of Columbia. This distribution of the students into nearly every state divides the responsibility so that the Christian Church must look upon the task of receiving these students as one not confined to any locality but as extending throughout the entire country.

The greatest single service for foreign students can be rendered only through friendship given to them by the Christian people of America. Racial prejudice, loneliness, criticism of our customs and manners, national prejudice and all of the barriers which might act to keep a foreign student from knowing the power of Christian forces in this country can be overcome if each of the students who comes from foreign countries can have at least one American who

DEATH OF MISS JANET HAY HOUSTON

Miss Houston was born in Union, Virginia, in 1856, and died in Washington, D. C., July 29, 1924.

Her father was Samuel Rutherford Houston, D. D., descendant of Samuel Rutherford. He was a missionary to Greece in 32-38 and is represented today on the field by grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Miss Houston felt the call to foreign work in early childhood and was sent to our Mexico Mission in 1880, laboring there for about twenty years as a teacher and in evangelistic work. At the request of Rev. J. T. Hall she was transferred to Cuba in 1899, where she did evangelistic work for more than eight years. Broken health compelled her to seek a more bracing climate, but her heart was ever where her treasure was and her thoughts and prayers always followed those for whom she had labored in both Mexico and Cuba.

She was of striking personality and gifty with tongue and pen. When she spoke for the cause she loved she captivated and inspired her audience, yet never failed to impress upon them their responsibility, and to sound a bugle call to world-wide service. Above all, she was deeply spiritual and a tireless personal worker wherever her lot was cast. In her star-filled crown will shine many a gem mined from the depths of ignorance and sin, for she sought till she found the lost.

And now that she has entered into the gates of the city of God let us rejoice in her fullness of joy and strive to follow the path she trod.

DEATH OF SAMUEL LUCIUS DE YAMPERT

A letter from Rev. L. A. De Yampert, formerly of our African Mission, brings the sad intelligence of the death of his little boy, Samuel Lucius, on July 12th, at Selma, Alabama, where the family has lived since retiring from the Mission in 1915. Samuel Lucius was born at Luebo on July 31, 1912, and would have been twelve years old on his next birthday. He was a Christian boy, the child of Christian parents who early taught him to love and trust the Savior, and we are glad to give the touching and beautiful account of his death as given in his father's letter: "On Friday morning he had been very active in

arranging all of his playthings and drawings away from his little desk and then had a happy little talk with his mother about Heaven and Jesus, and then went to the piano and played, "How firm a foundation ye saint of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word." It was early Saturday morning that he awakened and went into the room with his mother for a little chat as usual, but after dozing off to sleep he woke up with a hard spell, which was too much for him and within a few minutes our little son had crossed the Bar.

"You may know our grief, but we have this consolation that he has gone to be with Jesus, of whom we instructed him from infancy and there remains a happy remembrance of all the activities of his child life which was developing so beautifully."

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT H. GARDINER

On June 15th, Mr. Robert H. Gardiner, American Secretary of the World Conference on Faith and Order, has fought the good fight and finished his race, answered the summons to come up higher, and to receive the crown of righteousness which the Lord hath prepared for them that love Him. Those who have taken any interest in the World Conference on Faith and Order know that he was the life and soul of that movement. To it he devoted the splendid intellectual powers, the wide human sympathies and the spiritual endowments which made the movement under his leadership one of the most important instrumentalities for bringing about among the nations the mutual respect and kindly feeling which have taken the place of the antagonisms which characterized them a half century ago, and of promoting that unity of spirit which must of course precede any large realization of the ideal of outward unity among them. All those who have had the privilege of attending the preliminary Conferences of the movement, of which he was always the guiding spirit, could not do otherwise than come to feel for him the highest admiration and the deepest personal affection. If the Christian Church were made up of men of his spirit the problem of the reunion of Christendom in some form that would make it visible to the world would be speedily solved.



Notes and Personals

China and Japan rival the United States in the number of volumes of Christian scriptures circulated annually. The total circulated in 1923 by the American Bible Society in those eastern countries was 2,868,605, as against 2,395,000 in the United States. The increase in the Orient was more than 770,000 volumes, or thirty per cent over the preceding year. According to Frank H. Mann, general secretary, there was no increase in the society's budget for that year to account

for this large expansion in the far east. It is believed that the growing respect for the moral and spiritual values of the Bible accounts for this phenomenal increase in circulation.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Knox, of the Korean Mission, Rev. H. W. White and family, Rev. George W. Taylor and Rev. H. Kerr Taylor with their families, and Miss Alva Hardy and family spent the summer in cottages