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THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

CONTINUING

THE MISSIONARY AND

THE HOME MISSION HERALD



APRIL, 1912

HOME
MISSIONS

FOREIGN
MISSIONS

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

PUBLICATION

AND

AND

MINISTERIAL
RELIEF

SABBATH
SCHOOL
WORK

Requisites of a Preacher

Give me a man who graces shall possess,
 Of an ambassador the just address,
 A father's tenderness, a shepherd's care,
 A leader's courage which the cross can bear;
 A ruler's awe, a watchman's wakeful eye,
 A pilot's skill, the helm in storms to ply;
 A fisher's patience and a laborer's toil;
 A guide's dexterity to disembroil,
 A prophet's inspiration from above;
 A teacher's knowledge and a Saviour's love.

--Bishop Kenn.

A JOURNAL REPRESENTING ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF
 THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 AT HOME AND ABROAD
 PUBLISHED BY PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION
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THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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Volume I

APRIL, 1912

Number 6

EDITORIAL

THE BACKBONE OF THE PLAN

THE strength of the General Assembly's new plan of finance unquestionably lies in that feature which is indicated by the word EVERY.

Every church member giving to
Every benevolent cause
Every week.

Necessarily then, the success of the plan will depend upon:

1. The thoroughness with which the local congregation is canvassed for pledges and informed about the Assembly's benevolent undertakings.
2. The unanimity with which the pledges are made and fulfilled.

It was necessary for the Assembly to adopt a new plan, because it became evident that only about thirty per cent. of the membership of the Southern Presbyterian Church was contributing to the Assembly's benevolent causes. The purpose of the plan adopted is not only to hold this minority, but also to enlist the interest and gifts of the non-contributing seventy per cent.

Who comprise the seventy per cent? The answer is, all classes—rich and poor, young and old. There is, however, a very large proportion of young people included in the non-contributing membership; and just here is where one main virtue of the plan—perhaps the greatest—is apt to be overlooked; namely, its Educational value with reference to the young church members.

Faithful operation of the Every Member plan will produce three distinct results:

- (a) It will immediately increase the number and aggregate amount of gifts; (b) It will make the support not spasmodic; but uniform, steady and dependable; (c) It will be an educational agency of great force.

This last named result will mean more for the church of the rising generation, perhaps, than we can estimate. A thorough canvass will include every child whose name is on the church roll. A package of envelopes for each one of them should be provided, with the Treasurer's number assigned and the contributor's name marked on the package. *No matter how small the pledge*—if it be only one cent a week, let that be given. There is hardly a child member of the church who cannot set aside a cent a week from earnings or "spending money", while some could safely engage to give 5c., 10c., or more. It will likely be a surprise to some canvassers to find how readily the children will respond to this proposition and how faithfully they will keep their pledges. It will simply require the taking of some pains on somebody's part to explain what is wanted. The Treasurer of one of the five most liberal churches in the Assembly, in giving in his report at a recent officers' meeting, stated that of all the members of the congregation, the children were most regular in dropping into the collection plate their envelopes with amounts pledged. He said they rarely failed.

The boy or girl now giving a penny or a nickel a week, in all likelihood will be a person of influence or wealth—possibly both—later on, and, having been trained in the habit of giving, will easily and naturally develop into larger giving with the

relatives and villagers. This weeping and bewailing, sometimes continues for three or four days, and occasionally for many weeks. At the time appointed for burial the body is laid away in a neatly designed coffin, in which are placed all

the personal possessions of the dead, such as knives, shells, trinkets beads, and charms. This funeral rite is performed in order that the departed one may not fail of provisions in the spirit land.

FROM TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, TO IBANCHE, CONGO FREE STATE

MRS. ALTHEA BROWN EDMISTON

GREAT was our joy when we received a message from the Executive Committee at Nashville that the way had been opened for our return to the Congo, for, knowing the great need, we longed to be back on the field. Our departure from the homeland this time was with greater feeling of sadness than when we sailed for Africa nine years ago. We were leaving many loved ones whom, because of declining years and feeble health, we could not hope to see again in this life. Then there was our dear little five-year old son to be left behind. When the time came to separate from him the pain of parting was inexpressible, but God supplied the needed strength for which we had prayed.

We left our home in Tuscaloosa, August 16, 1911, for Philadelphia, where we met our outgoing missionary, the Rev. R. D. Bedinger. The trip across the Atlantic was very pleasant. The ocean was never rough enough to make us seasick. On board was a number of congenial passengers, among whom were four ministers and many Christians. We had services on Sunday, at which Mr. Bedinger preached. The only sad feature in this part of the voyage was the sudden death of our ship's doctor, who passed away the first night we were at sea. Twelve days brought us to Liverpool and from there we went to London. Our long-time friends of the Mission, Messrs. Whyte, Ridsdale & Company, gave us every assistance.

After getting our outfit and other supplies and leaving Mr. Bedinger to study French, we went to Antwerp, Belgium, from whence we sailed Saturday Septem-

ber 23rd, on the Steam Ship "Brussillville." When we got on the ship we found, to our delight, eight other protestant missionaries. Some returning and some going out for the first time. The American Consul to Sierre Leone, Dr. T. W. Yerby, of Memphis Tennessee, was also among the passengers. The sea was most placid all the way and the sunsets were glorious. We saw several whales and hundreds of porpoises and flying fishes. Our ship made a number of interesting stops. The first was at La Palice, France, where we took on the last mail and some passengers. Next we stopped at Teneriffe, Canary Islands, where we went ashore and bought some nice fresh fruits, and our ship took on two hundred tons of coal. We also stopped at Decar and Grand Bassam, French towns on the West coast of Africa. Again we stopped at Freetown, Sierra Leone where our ship took on another two hundred tons of coal. Then we came to Banana, near the mouth of the Congo River, where we took on the river pilot, then to Boma, the capitol of the Congo. Here we spent two days unloading cargo, and finally we came to Matadi where we disembarked Saturday, October 14th. Here we were entertained by Dr. A. Sims of the American Baptist Missionary Union. Early the following Monday morning, we left on the little African train for Leopoldville. The train not being able to travel after dark, we spent Monday night at Thysville, a very pretty little foreign town about half way between Matadi and Leopoldville. The next day, continuing our journey, we reached Stanley Pool, where we spent two weeks being

entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Rudland, of the Congo Balolo Mission. It was here that we met Mr. and Mrs. Rochester, of our own Mission on their way to America.

The "Lapsley" came in due time and we began, November 3rd, our journey up river. Mr. and Mrs. Harris, who were once missionaries to the Congo and who are now working under the auspices of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, were our guests on board. This trip up river was the most interesting part of our journey. The "Lapsley" is a lovely steamer, and Mr. Scott is an excellent captain and did everything he could for our enjoyment. The rainy season having just begun, the scenery along the banks of the river was most pleasing and attractive. Then too, we frequently saw huge elephants and buffalos feeding on the plains. Also crocodiles and scores of hippopotami and many wild geese and ducks. One day the captain killed a large black monkey, of which the natives made stew. But best of all, as you perhaps already know, the "Lapsley" is a floating church and each morning before the steamer starts on its daily journey, the members of the crew offer up prayers and songs of praise to God, and every night is observed the regular evening worship. Each Sunday at 10 o'clock (for the "Lapsley" never runs on Sunday) there is a regular preaching service, and prayer meetings on Wednesday and Sunday nights. We stopped at two villages where the Gospel is being preached by native evangelists from Luebo. At each of these places the members of the "Lapsley" always hold a service for the people. A prayer offered by one of the members of the village was most touching. Among other things he prayed: "O God, we thank thee that while we were in darkness and in the midst of death, you sent your messengers to save us and to lead us into the light, and now we have life eternal through Jesus Christ."

There were, however, other features of the voyage up river that gave us much sadness, for we passed many, many villages that, from all appearances, were in total darkness having not the least knowledge of the Saviour or of the true God. Then

again, one day as we were approaching a trader's post on the bank of the river two white men stood on the bank waving a white flag, asking our steamer to stop. When we had anchored, they came on board quite excited and said "We have a very sick comrade, please help us to do something for him." But while they were yet speaking, another came saying: "It is no use, he is dead!" It was indeed a sad occasion. The dead man was just twenty-five years of age and had been in the Congo only three months. After rendering what service we could to the bereaved parties, our boat went on its way and finally came, Saturday November 18th to Luebo where we were most warmly greeted and welcomed by all our fellow missionaries and hundreds of the natives. O, how our hearts were thrilled with joy when we heard those on the shore singing: "Onward Christian Soliders" and those on the boat take up the refrain. The next day in spite of the threatening rain, the church was filled at the morning service, and in the afternoon there were more than nine hundred present at the Sunday School. Our hearts were filled with sorrow, however, when we saw the grave of our dear Mrs. Morrison. It had been just a year since her death. Poor Dr. Morrison, being sick with a fever, looked very lonely.

Having spent three days at Luebo, we began our thirty-five mile journey through the forest to Ibanche at which place we arrived late in the afternoon of the same day and were most cordially received by Mr. and Mrs. Sieg, who were alone on the station. They had our home most pleasingly decorated for our reception and everything was done by them for our comfort and happiness. Thus, after a journey of three months and six days, we reached our final destination. We are now quite settled and have begun our regular work on the station. We do greatly rejoice to be back in the work so dear to our hearts. We wish again to thank those who gave so liberally and freely toward our traveling expenses, and we wish to give them the deepest assurance of our best and most faithful service.