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THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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DECEMBER, 1914

MINISTERIAL RELIEF

When the evening shades descending
 Tell the close of life's long day,
 And the gleaners homeward wending
 Now are feeble, old and gray,
 How their forms are bowed and broken
 By Time's emaciating touch—
 Yet the grandest word e'er spoken
 Cheers their hearts—
 Christ's "Inasmuch"



HOME
MISSIONS

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
AND
MINISTERIAL
RELIEF



FOREIGN
MISSIONS

PUBLICATION
AND
SABBATH
SCHOOL
WORK

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.
AT HOME AND ABROAD

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A LITTLE GIRL IN CUBA.

BY EDITH McCLUNG HOUSTON.

CLANG! clang! goes the knocker on the door of my house in Cai-barien; and when I go to see who is there, I find a little Cuban maid, with shining eyes and on tiptoe, to give me a message.

"Good morning," she says. "And mamma says you have a new little servant to command at our house."

And then she runs off to tell the neighbors the same thing. Did you ever hear such a queer message—that I have a new servant, and she lives in another house?

Suppose we go and see her right away! We cross the street and find all the children so glad to see us.

Aurora is the eldest; then there is Leonidas, Jose, Julian, Maria del Carmen, Manuel Antonio, and Ramon, and every one is talking about my servant. They take us into their mother's room. It is all dark and shut up, but they light a candle and we see their mother propped up in bed, and by her side is a bundle—not a very big one—just a little, little baby! What a red face it has, and what big eyes and black hair!

I put out my finger and its tiny fingers go round mine and hold me tight, tight. We are getting to know each other already. Why, can it be—"?" yes, this is "the new little servant" I am to command!

She wears a little waist instead of a long baby dress; but, you see, it has trimming on it, and she is wrapped in a linen cloth marked with her mother's initials in red cross-stitch letters nearly as big as she is, and on her little pink toes are bootees of wool or silk. She

wears a stiffly starched cap all trimmed with lace and baby ribbon, and, as a finishing touch, a jet bead is tied round her creased wrist to keep off bad luck.

But we are exclaiming over too many things. She wrinkles up her scrap of a face and opens her mouth very wide and gives a vigorous cry! My servant has a strong voice and a mind of her own!

"And what name did she bring?" I ask. For her mother will not choose a name for her as your mother did, but will look in the calendar and see the names of the "saints" on whose day she was born. (Saints are people whom it is said were very good when they were living, and so the people in Roman Catholic countries pray to them as much as they do to God.) And they think the "saint" whose name a child "brings" will take care of it all its life. So, even if the family don't like the name, they call the baby by it just the same.

This mother tells us the baby brought "Emilia," and she is very glad, for she thinks it is a very pretty name.

Emilia has had a very warm welcome from all the neighbors, and especially from her brothers and sisters. Little Manuel Antonio wants to put her down on the floor to see if she can crawl and gets up from the dinner table to carry her some black beans so she may have something to eat, too.

And all the others are busy talking about what she will do when she gets big.



For one thing, she will spend a great deal of time thinking about her clothes, even when she is very little.

She will have plenty of little thin dresses of white or bright colors, and she will want a new one for every special occasion, for it is dreadful to have to wear an "ironed" dress (one already worn) when every one else has a new one. She will have new shoes, too, and think more of them than even her dress, and she will want some gay ribbons for her hair and a little fan to open and shut all the time.

She will go to school when she is three or four years old, and carry a bag made of burlap for her books and slate, with her initials worked on the outside. She will carry a long, hard cushion, with a strip of crewel sewed to it, and will learn to make letters of cross-stitch before she is five years old. When she is larger, she will have a square frame and do embroidery or drawn-work in it. She will also learn to crochet; and if she learns these things well, her mother will say her teacher is fine, because she knows how to teach "abores" (fancywork).

She will play with dolls, just like you do, and visit with other little girls, too. She might teach you a good many games you never heard of, and she will know others very much like yours.

In one game they play a great deal; one little girl pretends that she is a little rabbit and hops all about the circle where the others are.

Another game must have been played hundreds of years ago in Spain, for it is about the Moors coming. "What do they come for?" "To kill us." "How?" "With dirks." "Here they come!" "To the water!" And it ends by all pretending to throw themselves into the river.

They never go to bed till the grown-up people do, and as all the children dance, they often go to balls and dance all night.

Most of the balls are on Sunday, and every celebration is put on that day.

They say Sunday is the day to "divert yourself."

If nothing else is going on, the band is playing in the plaza at night, and gaily dressed people are walking about, going round and round and talking and laughing.

On Sunday, too, they go to Sunday school in the cities where there is one. Not long ago I asked my little neighbor, Manuela, what she learned in Sunday school.

"A rezar y rifar" (to say prayers and raffle), she answered. She is given a ticket every Sunday for attendance, and these entitle her to draw for fans, dolls, bicycles, etc. Once there was a kid raffled off, but the priest got that.

When she goes to church, she must dip her finger into the "holy water" at the door and make the sign of the cross on her forehead.

She is taught to say prayers on beads—ten to Mary and one to God.

She learns the commandments this way: The first, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me;" the second, "Take not the name of God in vain."

She is taught to pray to the images in the churches and the pictures of the "saints" in her home, and she is given little "saints" to take home instead of a Sunday school card. She wears a medal of the Virgin hung about her neck.

Now you want to know how Emilia spends Christmas. She will have a new dress, but no gifts, such as you have. All her relatives will come to her house, and they will have a fine dinner and eat roast pig and dishes they specially like. On January 6 comes the "day of the Kings."

They say it is the anniversary of the day the wise men came to see the baby Jesus. And the children think they still go riding by carrying gifts. So they set their little shoes in the windows, and in the morning they often find them full of little sweets of presents.

On her birthday, too, Emilia will

have cards and flowers; perhaps a big cup to take her coffee from in the morning from her home folks and friends. And she may give a little party, and hand around little cakes piled in a pyramid on a glass stand.

But we have let Emilia grow into a big girl, haven't we? We shall have to wait till you catch up with her before you can see her again.

Caibarien, Cuba.

SPELLING CHRISTMAS.

A Home Mission Program for the Juniors.

We Are Glad That—

"Christ was once a little baby,
Just like you and me;
Born in Bethlehem of Judah,
Far across the sea!

"This is still the same dear Jesus
Of whose birth we sing.
O! 'tis sweet to tell the story
Of our new-born King.

Who was once a little baby,
Just like you and me.
Born in Bethlehem of Judah
Far across the sea."

1. Hymn—"Joy to the World!"
2. Prayer—Of joy and praise for God's Best Gift to us, and to all the world; and that we may share our joy and praise with His very "least" needy children.

3. Prompt Transaction of Business.
4. Spelling Christmas in Texts, An Acrostic:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.—Isaiah 40: 1.

He shall feed His flock like a Shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom. —Isaiah 40: 11.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee. —Zech. 9: 9.

I will shake all nations, and the Desire of all nations shall come.—Haggai 2: 7.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.—Isaiah 40: 2.

The Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.—Isaiah 60: 3.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.—Luke 1: 46-47.

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and * * —Luke 2:13.

Saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. —Luke 2: 14.

5. Hymn—"There's a Song in the Air."
6. Spelling Christmas in Deeds: The Little Child Jesus, Highland Hospital, GeneRosity among the Poor, Brooks Memorial Institute, Canoe, Santa Claus' Land, ForgotTen, Ensley Mission, Canyon Falls, John Black, School.
7. Hymn—"O Little Town of Bethlehem."
8. A Junlor Christmas Tree.
9. Hymn—"O Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus."
10. Prayer—Of thanks for the good things that we enjoy; that God will specially bless all needy little children, and those who are ministering to them in Christ's Name; that our hearts may be very tender, and responsive to the privilege that He has given us of bringing joy to other lives and souls.

NOTES:

4, 6 —Let the children take all these parts, responding as their letters are "spelled out." If desired, these may be given as special exercises, the children bearing gilt stars, with red letters.

8—Begin early and enthusiastically to plan for the tree, and let the children "trim" it and place the gifts,—of toys, food, clothing, money. If some special field is to be remembered, ascertain in advance what the real needs are. Make the children feel that their gifts to other needy little ones are truly given to the Lord Jesus.