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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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The famous Varadero Beach, near Cardenas, Cuba.

OUR WORK IN CUBA.

REV. R. L. WEAERTON.

THE changes which the Lord can bring about in a few months seem marvelous in man's sight, and truly nothing so refreshes and strengthens a worker's faith as these evidences of the presence of His mighty hand.

Just one year ago, when the writer sat down to prepare his report, the outlook for the Cuban Mission seemed exceedingly dark. A dearth of workers and a listlessness among the native Christians seemed to have paralyzed the entire work. Twelve months later, through the increase of a half dozen vigorous native workers, both the evangelistic and the school work have taken on new life, while without exception each one of the organized churches is characterized by an activity, alertness and expectancy such as has never been seen in this field before.

During the year two events have served to arouse the workers and to greatly strengthen the work. The first was the evangelistic campaign conducted during the spring by Dr. Juan Orts Gonzalez and Rev. H. B. Someillan.

Dr. Orts is unsurpassed as a lecturer, and Mr. Someillan is a man of unusual spiritual power in evangelistic services. The awakening brought about at that time has proven a permanent one.

The second, and the crowning event of the year, has been the organization of a native Presbytery, which was effected January 1. Of the thirty-one preachers and teachers engaged in the work of our church on the Island, twenty-two were present, in addition to a number of elders and other delegates. The enthusiasm of the workers could almost be felt growing from hour to hour during the meeting, until at the close, when it was proposed that the native churches provide \$180.00 to open a station in a town of 4,000 inhabitants near Caibarien, within five minutes the entire amount was subscribed, and thus Home Missions were inaugurated at the very first meeting of the Presbytery.

The increase in force has made it necessary to change the field of nearly every one of the ministers.



The older pupils of the Caibarien, Cuba, School, on a "hike." Rev. E. R. Sims is director of the school.

CARDENAS.

Cardenas, the oldest and strongest of our churches, has been left under the care of Rev. H. B. Someillan, while the direction of the school has been given into the hands of Miss M. Emelyn Craig. The notable feature of this station has been the large increase in the attendance upon the school. It enjoys the distinction of having enrolled more pupils than any other evangelical school on the island during the term, the number matriculated being 183.

CAIBARIEN.

The work at this place was founded in the year 1901, but has had a struggle for existence for the lack of a pastor. For more than ten years the only worker who has been able to remain for any length of time in the town has been Miss Edith Houston. Due to her untiring energy, a good Sunday school

has been maintained. In September of this past year, Mr. E. R. Sims was transferred to this place to take charge of the school, and the writer of this report was placed in charge of the church.

These workers, together with Miss Mary Alexander and the natives laboring at this station, have reason for grateful rejoicing because of the abundant blessing upon the station. Within three months and a half the school has grown from a matriculation of forty-three to more than a hundred, while the attendance upon the church services has increased more than 100 per cent.

Caibarien is a vigorous growing town of 12,000 inhabitants.

PLACETAS.

Mr. Beaty, at Placetatas, has been the only man, foreign or native, who has been allowed to remain in his same charge. The work here under his direction, and with the assistance of Miss Patterson, has prospered during the year, the greatest activity having been seen among the young people. About a dozen of the young people of the congregation have been received into the church, and they, with others, have been organized into a "Westminster League." The first meeting of presbytery was held at Placetatas, and it was pleasant to see the Boy Scouts in their uniforms, ready to serve any of the presbyters or delegates.

CAMAJUANI.

Camajuani is a beautiful little town of 6,000 inhabitants in a wonderfully fertile section of the country. For four or five years our mission has been doing work there in a desultory sort of a way. Two months ago Rev. E. D. Torres, who had just completed his studies at Union Theological Institute, was placed in charge, and the desultory feature of the work came quickly to an end. Mr. Torres has a wonderful faculty for head work, and already the

entire town knows of his presence. His school, organized in November, is steadily growing, and with the help of Miss Edith Houston, who has been transferred to that place, he will certainly be able to give good account of the coming year.

NEW STATIONS.

The four new stations being opened at the beginning of the year are Sagua, Sto Domingo, Zulueta and Yaguajay. The largest of these places is Sagua. It is a city of importance, and located midway between the two extremes of our field. It is here that Dr. Juan Orts and his wife will be located.

THE CHURCH OF EL COBRE.

The old church of El Cobre, nine miles from Santiago, is the most famous shrine in all Cuba. It was built in 1631, and is filled with many costly gifts and beautiful votive offerings. In a

quaintly carved chair, inlaid with ivory and gold, rests the image of the Virgin, which, according to the story the priests tell, was found floating in the bay. The image came to life long enough to command the building of the church on the hill, which is known as the "Church of Our Lady of Charity." The story relates how, after the image was found by fishermen, came to life, it walked from the seashore to the top of the hill and designated the spot where the church was to be built.

The poor ignorant people believe this story to be true. They also believe that the image possesses miraculous power, that it can heal people of their infirmities and cure diseases. Gifts must be made, however, before the Virgin will listen to pleas.

The image is surrounded by gifts to the value of many thousands of dollars.



The Church of El Cobre.

The Virgin of Cobre is regarded as the patron saint of the island of Cuba. She is also the particular patron of sailors and fishermen.

Near the church of El Cobre is the plant of a copper mining company.

Miss Carson, to whom we are indebted for the picture on the first page, says: "The priests live in the house in front. The tall chimneys belong to the copper mines."—*The Christian Worker*.

OUR WORK AT CARDENAS.

REV. H. B. SOMEILLAN.

THE Cardenas Mission was founded in 1899 by Rev. John G. Hall, of sacred memory. His widow (Mrs. Virginia Hall), is still doing efficient missionary work in this city.

The successful labors of the two pastors who have preceded the writer are not only an evidence of their faithfulness, but an indication of the wonderful possibilities for the development of the work in the future.

Our commodious church edifice, erected in 1909 during the pastorate of Rev. R. L. Wharton, has proved a real blessing to the field. In it thousands have heard the gospel message, many of whom are now rejoicing in Christ as their personal Saviour.



Robert Wharton and Richard Sims, of the Cuban Mission.

The present church membership is 210, and there are 250 members in our Sabbath school, including those in the Cradle Roll and Home Department.

The mission school, "La Progresiva" (The Progressive), under the faithful and efficient management of its superintendent, Miss M. E. Craig, aided by a corps of eight excellent Christian teachers, has just opened its fall term with a total enrollment of 202 pupils, many of whom are from the best families in this city.

Both Protestants and Catholics speak of this flourishing institution as being one of the best, not only in Cardenas, but in the whole province of Mantanzas also. It is without doubt a most powerful adjunct to the church work, and the very best feeder for a Sunday school that the writer knows of in Cuba.

It is a great pity that the size of the present building should be so utterly inadequate and that, for the lack of two additional rooms (the cost of which would be exceedingly moderate), the onward move of this grand educational Christian work should be impeded.

The greatest need at the present moment (which we believe is the most critical one in the career of the school), is the additional rooms to which reference has been made. May God's Spirit touch the heart of some devoted Christian who will respond liberally and cheerfully to this urgent Macedonian cry for help.

Cuba will never forget her American protectors. We shall never forget the blood they have shed and the noble lives they have sacrificed for our na-