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THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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CONTENTS FOR AUGUST, 1907

The Board of Home Missions —August Topic: "Our Workingmen"	347
"Labor Sunday." <i>By the Rev. Charles Stetzle</i>	347
"A Silver Platter." <i>By Charles Frederic Goss, D.D.</i>	348
Breaking Down Labor's Prejudice. <i>By Edgar P. Hill, D.D.</i>	350
A Chaplain for Organized Labor. <i>By the Rev. Wm. Carter, Ph.D.</i>	351
A Presbyterian Institution in a Working-Class Community. <i>By Rev. Norman B. Barr</i>	352
The Shop Annexed to the Church. <i>By the Rev. James H. Northrup</i>	354
Shop Meetings in Seattle. <i>By M. A. Matthews, D.D.</i>	355
A Brotherhood Service for Workingmen. <i>By Edgar W. Work, D.D.</i>	355
An Experiment with Workingmen. <i>By A. B. Morey, D.D.</i>	356
Finding Workingmen in the Lodge. <i>By the Rev. William Nat. Friend</i>	357
Coal Miners for Empty Pews at Saginaw. <i>By William C. Covert, D.D.</i>	357
How One Workingman was Won. <i>By the Rev. John T. Faris</i>	358
A Minister Helping to Celebrate Labor Day. <i>By the Rev. Leon C. Hills</i>	358
General Notes	359
Young People's Department. <i>By Von Ogden Vogt</i>	360
Some Books on Church and Labor Topics	361
Leaflets, Monthly Topics, Treasurer's Statement	362
The Board of Foreign Missions —August Topic: "Chinese and Japanese in the United States" ..	363
Our Japanese Work in California. <i>By E. A. Sturge, M.D.</i>	363
Chinese Work in New York City. <i>By Mrs. Huie Kin</i>	365
Oakland's Chinese Mission. <i>By Ira M. Condit, D.D.</i>	367
The Bright Side of Disaster. <i>By Donaldina Cameron</i>	369
Reviews of New Books.....	371
Forward Movement Notes.....	376
Obituary—Rev. John Reese Jones	376
The Board for Freedmen — <i>Edward P. Cowan, D.D., Secretary</i>	377
The Board of Ministerial Relief — <i>B. L. Agnew, D.D., Corresponding Secretary</i> . 380	
The Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work — <i>Alexander Henry, D.D.</i> 382	
The Board of Education — <i>Joseph Wilson Cochran, D.D., Secretary</i>	386
The Board of Church Erection — <i>Erskine N. White, D.D., Secretary</i>	388
The College Board — <i>James Stuart Dickson, D.D., Secretary</i>	390
The Permanent Committee on Temperance — <i>John F. Hill, D.D., Chairman</i> . 392	

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VOL. XIII

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DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH & LABOR ∴ ∴ ∴ General Object

To interpret the Church to workingmen, to interpret workingmen to the Church, and to interpret employer and employee to each other, through education, inspiration, mediation, evangelism and twentieth-century methods of Christian work.

“Labor Sunday”

By the Rev. Charles Stelzle, New York, N. Y.

Just as Memorial Day and the several “Birthdays” show our appreciation of those who rendered patriotic service, and just as the Church’s holy days do honor to those who have served mankind spiritually, so Labor Sunday should be observed by the churches in honor of the millions of toilers who daily serve mankind in the humbler places of life.

As the result of an appeal made by the Department of Church and Labor through our local Presbyterian ministers, more “Labor” sermons were preached on the Sunday before last Labor Day than on any other single day in the history of the Christian Church. More workingmen attended church on that Sunday than on any other day since the advent of the modern trades union movement. On the following morning, which was Labor Day, the daily press in practically every city gave columns of space to the sermons, which were eagerly read by workingmen who would natu-

rally be interested in knowing what ministers had to say with regard to their problems. The favorable comments of the labor press of the country indicated that the impression made was good. In several cities the labor editors secured entire sermons from the pastors, printing them in full. Literally millions of leaflets were sent out among workingmen on that day.

Central Labor Unions passed resolutions to attend church in a body. In many cases they met in their halls and marched in procession to the churches. Preachers were invited to repeat the address to local unions. Invitations were received to come to the shops for noon-hour meetings. Special workingmen ushers and special workingmen choirs assisted in the service. For the first time some Christian workingmen came out in their shops as church members as they invited their fellows to the “labor meeting” in their churches. Some ministers discovered the great opportunity they had been missing, in mingling with the men in the shops, the mines and the mills. Many were

* The Home Mission topic for the month is Our Workingmen.

their part to help develop China, the future queen of the Orient, which is coming into the forefront with such astounding speed. It is no longer slow old China, but progressive, aggressive new China, moving into her place with amazing strides.

How unspeakably important for her sake, for our own protection, that our blessed gospel may keep pace with this wonderful advance. God help us to meet this the great-

est problem and responsibility of the age, which is confronting us. With China's effete ideals shattered in pieces, it is for us all to be ready to help put the tempered mortar of our religion into the new building that is going up.

Oh, for more consecrated men and women of our own people to enter this open door of grand opportunity, and for larger gifts from our beloved Church to send them forth.

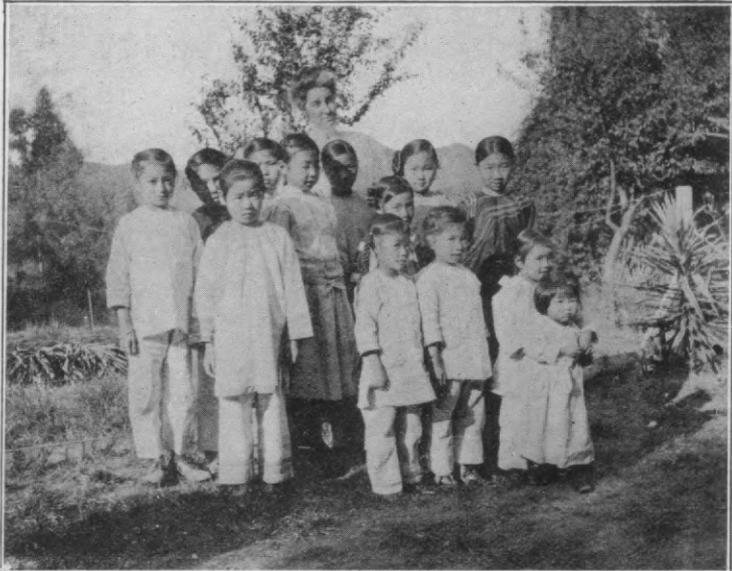
The Bright Side of Disaster

By Donaldina Cameron.

When our nousehold of Chinese girls were suddenly rendered homeless last year, we viewed the situation in the light of a calamity. But the last few months have thrown a new light on our horizon. The trying events through which our young girls passed have in one year developed stronger Christian characteristics and finer spiritual graces than five years of the old easy, safe guarded, well-ordered régime. No longer satisfied with merely "being good" and keeping watered and green their own little garden plot, several of our earnest young Christian girls are now awakening to the vital needs of China, and eagerly long to carry the living Water to the spiritually barren places in their own great Province of Canton. The way seems to be opening for the fulfilment of that desire.

Mary Lee, a member of our mission home, has just returned from a visit to China filled with earnest enthusiasm. During her visit of four months she experienced the joy of bringing four Chi-

nese converts to the native church for baptism. One of these, a bright, young cousin of her own, had to leave home and seek protection at Canton because of her faith. She is now a pupil in the "True Light Seminary" and hopes to return to her native village in two years to tell others the gospel story. Another convert was a poor slave girl rescued in San Francisco in March, 1906, and returned to her friends in Hong Kong under the care of Mary Lee. She is now a free woman and we believe a sincere follower of Christ. Mary tells of the eager



MISS CAMERON AND A GROUP OF CHINESE CHILDREN.

scores of women, girls and children who every evening would gather around her to listen to the simple stories of the True God and his love for them. Her own limited knowledge of the doctrines of Christianity made the task of teaching these eager enquirers a difficult one. So she has returned to America to gain a better education and a deeper knowledge of the gospel which she believes and loves, and longs to impart intelligently to her relatives and others who are only waiting to be taught. Who wants to send Mary Lee, true and tried, to China in two years as their missionary substitute?

There are four younger members of our family who have set their standard of Christianity and education high, who have the mental ability and we believe the spiritual foundation on which to build fine, consecrated characters. Our hopes are high for their future usefulness if they continue to grow in grace and intellectual qualities for the next five years as rapidly as they have done during the last twelve months. Their lives also may be consecrated to China.

There are many experiences in the life of our Rescue Home to call forth the missionary spirit if there be any, in the hearts of our girls. It would be hard to find a better school for practical missionary training than this large, strangely assorted household affords. Every one over fourteen, has the care of a younger child and the young foster mothers are, almost without exception, very faithful and conscientious in the performance of their duty. A sincere affection usually springs up between the little ones and those in charge of them—a helpful influence to both.

Last February a diligent search was made in Oakland's "Chinatown" for captive slave girls. The result was the rescue of two: one a win-

some little girl of five; the other a young girl of eighteen who had been sold by her mother in Hong Kong, taken to San Francisco, and resold. After the usual court proceedings, the two, Baby Ah Yoke, and Suey Sum, became members of the Mission Home family. The older girl is now the self-appointed nurse of the child—proud and happy as well as faithful in the performance of her new duties. As we watch Suey Sum caring for and teaching Ah Yoke, to the best of her light, the rules and courtesies of a Christian home, so new and strange to both, we realize the living truth of our Great Teacher's words—"A little child shall lead them." There are many young children in the Home, and they form a bright, interesting kindergarten class which is conducted in a small barn on the premises, while the more advanced school is carried on in a larger barn, there being no place in the house for class rooms. Whitewash, bright pictures and bright young faces have converted these novel school rooms into very attractive spots. Along with school work, our girls, under the supervision of their teacher, conduct a kitchen garden where they successfully cultivate all sorts of vegetables and many bright flowers. The outdoor life has brought health and happiness, and given to the rescued ones a sense of freedom, and a taste of new life quite unknown to them before. They have learned new lessons about God, and formed new conceptions of his goodness and loving care. As a family, and as an institution, we have learned that neither success nor happiness are dependent on condition or place, but are gifts from above. "As the night brings out the stars" so through the shadow of disaster there shines for the Chinese Rescue Home the unfailing light of God's love and peace, and we *are* happy.

