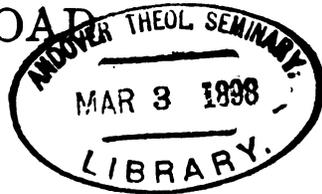


THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD

MARCH, 1898.



CURRENT EVENTS AND THE KINGDOM.

A Large Bequest for Missions.—It is announced that a legacy which will amount to about \$900,000 has been left to the China Inland Mission.

The Hawaiian Question.—Replying to the argument against annexation that the people of Hawaii are not up to the American standard, the Hon. Lorin A. Thurston writes in *The Outlook*: "Millions of Americans are not up to the Hawaiian standard. With the exception of a temporary Asiatic laboring population, there is less illiteracy in Hawaii than in Massachusetts. Hawaii is, in its government, educational system, laws, customs, business methods and civilization, more American than any Territory ever admitted to the Union."

The Student Volunteers.—The third convention of Student Volunteers, held in Cleveland, February 23-27, has brought prominently to public attention the facts regarding this important movement. In eight hundred institutions of learning the claims of world-wide missions are frequently brought to the attention of students, and there are two hundred and fifty classes for the special study of missions. Two results are that many more are ready to go to mission fields than the Boards are able to send, and that the missionary contributions of students have increased from \$5000 a year to \$40,000. A student volunteer cultivates the habit of systematic giving and the ability to do Christian work at home.

A Monument to Lincoln.—When the mountain people of Cumberland Gap proposed to erect a statue in memory of Abraham Lincoln, Gen. O. O. Howard said: "Set a living monument there, not one of dead

stone. Plant a great educational tree, its fruit-laden branches reaching out to the four States. That will be a fitting monument." The suggestion has borne fruit, and an institution for the education of the young men and women of the mountain district is to be established at Cumberland Gap, known as the Abraham Lincoln Memorial University. General Howard is at the head of the enterprise. It is announced that the directors have in their hands property valued at \$100,000, and that Washington and Tusculum, two Presbyterian institutions in East Tennessee, are to come in under the university charter.

The Salvation Army.—The number of institutions opened by the Salvation Army for the relief of the poor in this country has increased from fifteen in 1896 to sixty-two in 1898. General Booth states that in Great Britain the Army is attempting to remove, after selection and training, a certain proportion of the submerged population to some colony, where land is abundant and the population limited. He says he came to study this question and to confer with Commander Booth-Tucker about the "farm-colony" in California, and the scheme to transfer to unoccupied territory some of the overwhelming populations of the great cities.

Methodist Federation.—The joint commission of representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, North and South, at its recent meeting discussed plans of federation. The resolutions adopted called upon the two General Conferences to order the preparation of a common hymn book, catechism and order of worship, and to provide for the union of the two Epworth Leagues;

visit West Virginia University and to report the result of their observations.

The report of this latter committee was presented to the synod of 1897, and showed that a number of denominations of Christians are already taking steps toward some method by which the religious care and culture of their young people in the university may be provided for. The Episcopal Church owns a large building, into which her young people are gathered, and where they room and board, and where they are under the direct ecclesiastical supervision of that denomination. In this building were found a number of Presbyterian youths, who, with others, are brought under influences calculated to alienate them from sympathy with the Church of their fathers. It was in view of this state of things that, in

June last, a meeting was called for the purpose of forming "The Presbyterian Association of West Virginia University," in order that provision might be made for the better moral and spiritual care of Presbyterian students and students of Presbyterian tendencies.

The association was not yet completed at the time of the report. The Presbyterians of that part of the synod are enthusiastic in their zeal to do what is best, but are encountering difficulties which seem to make a demand upon the sympathy and coöperation of the whole synod. This sympathy and coöperation has been pledged, and the presbytery has received warm commendation for the zeal it is displaying in a matter which is recognized as of immediate and pressing importance.

FREEDMEN.

AS MUCH AS LAST YEAR.

The Board sincerely hoped and reasonably expected that it would receive this year as much as it did last year. We have not given up hope yet that this will be the case.

Up to January 1, we were short on this calculation about \$4000. We ought to have received \$65,000. Between now and the close of the year to overcome this falling off and make the receipts as large as last year, we must obtain about \$72,000. Last year in the last three months we received \$68,000. Will the friends of our cause help us to overtake this difference?

It is a delicate thing to write to a pastor after receiving his collection and tell him it is not as large as it was last year. We are afraid sometimes this will seem ungracious and it might offend.

Will not, therefore, pastors look at their collections; compare them with the year before, and if they have fallen behind will they not in some way for their own credit and for the good of the cause bring them at least to last year's figures?

The Board went to the Assembly last year with the report that it stood ready to close seventeen boarding-schools, and thus save \$11,000, if the Assembly thought

best. The Assembly said, "No; do not close the schools, but appeal to the churches for the extra \$11,000." The appeal has been made, some churches have increased their offerings, while others have fallen behind.

Once more in the Master's name we ask, first, for at least as much as last year, and, second, if possible, an increase of the ten per cent. that would be necessary to give us the \$11,000 additional that the work demands and the Assembly said we ought to have.

The seventeen schools may yet be closed! May God forbid.

CAST DOWN BUT NOT DESTROYED.

"You may not have heard of it, but our church at — was blown down by the storm last June. It was not finished, but it was hulled in, and we were holding our services in it. There was no loss of life in this section, though there was a great deal of property destroyed by the storm. In — there was another church blown down, and several houses. It was quite discouraging to our little flock who had