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THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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WHO is going to tell the American people the gifts our immigrants bring? Who is going to tell these people what gifts we have for them? Who is going to bring them the gospel as we understand it?

—Edward A. Steiner

THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
A. W. HALSEY, D. D., JOHN DIXON, D. D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee.

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY, 1908

The Board of Foreign Missions—January Topic: General Survey	1
The Foreign Mission Outlook	1
Presbyterian Men's Foreign Missionary Convention. <i>By David McConaughy</i>	6
The Central District Synods and Foreign Missions. <i>By Charles Edwin Bradt</i>	8
There Is Something Doing in the Southern District. <i>By J. M. Patterson</i>	9
Advertisement: Missionary Capsules. <i>By Dr. T. H. P. Sailer</i>	10
Missions in the Sunday School. <i>By Rev. George H. Trull</i>	11
New Leaflets, Monthly Concert Topic	11
Tabulated Summary of Seventy-four Years of Foreign Missionary Work	12
Obituary—Mrs. Amelia P. Lowrie, Miss Grace D. Lynch	12
The Board of Home Missions—January Topic: "Our Foreigners"	13
A Million a Year. <i>By Charles L. Thompson, D.D.</i>	13
Our Foreigners. <i>By the Rev. Ferdinand von Krug</i>	17
Over Against Your Own House. <i>By Ozora S. Davis, D.D.</i>	20
The New Ellis Island. <i>By Arthur Huntington Gleason</i>	23
Face to Face	25
Immigration Notes. <i>By Robert Watchorn</i>	28
Among the Hungarians Near Buffalo. <i>By the Rev. Bel a Basso</i>	29
Our Church and the Foreigners. <i>By John Dixon, D.D.</i>	30
Christianity's Storm Centre. <i>By Rev. Charles Stelzle</i>	31
Young People's Department. <i>By Von Ogden Vogt</i>	32
Bibliography of February Topic, the Indians	33
Topic Literature, Treasurer's Statement	34
The College Board—James Stuart Dickson, D.D., Secretary	35
The Board of Church Erection—Erskine N. White, D.D., Secretary	38
The Board of Education—Joseph Wilson Cochran, D.D., Secretary	40
The Board for Freedmen—Edward P. Cowan, D.D., Secretary	42
The Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work—Alexander Henry, D.D. 44	
The Board of Ministerial Relief—B. L. Agnew, D.D., LL.D., Cor. Secretary ..	46
The Permanent Committee on Temperance—John F. Hill, D.D., Chairman ..	48
Officers of the Boards of the Church	52

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The Foreign Mission Outlook

The year 1908 bids fair to be one of the great years in the annals of Foreign Missions. All signs point to a deepening and increasing interest in this world-wide enterprise.

The last Annual Report of the Board will repay the careful and thoughtful study of every Presbyterian interested in the work of extending the Kingdom of God. Take the single statement regarding the contributions from churches: In 1899 the receipts from churches were \$313,552.22; in 1907, \$495,776.16. It is true that the Church has grown largely in these years, and there should have been an increased offering due to numerical growth, but these figures indicate a very decided increase in interest on the part of God's people in this work. The total contributions from all sources in the same period is equally significant. In 1899 the receipts were \$921,093.82; in 1907, \$1,276,747.85. The congregational offerings of the home churches for Foreign Missions are now about equal to their combined offerings for all the other seven Boards of the Church.

The undoubted evidence of a more intelligent interest in missions is indicated in the growth of the Laymen's Movement. For many years the women of the Church have been most aggressive and progressive in the cause of world-wide missions. It is only within recent years that any considerable number of laymen have recognized their responsibility for the sending of the Gospel to foreign lands. The Laymen's Movement during the past twelve months has assumed large proportions. At the celebration in connection with the Haystack Centennial the laymen became so deeply interested that a committee was appointed to visit the various mission fields of the world. Many Christian men going out at their own charges have visited

a large number of mission stations, have made personal examination of every phase of work, and have brought back to the home land full and accurate reports. It is needless to say that these reports have been of the most encouraging character, and have stimulated mission interest in many churches.

The men's meetings held during the year in various large cities, under the auspices of the Laymen's Movement, have proved most stimulating. Thousands of men have pledged their support to Foreign Missions who never before manifested any interest in this great work. The increasing knowledge of the work has been followed by an ever deepening interest. Everywhere among the churches strong business men are showing new respect for missions, and in many places they are organizing for more effective support of the cause. The great Men's Convention in Omaha, February, 1907, was a memorable illustration of this. Over one thousand Presbyterian laymen came together for the sole purpose of considering the foreign mission obligation of the Church. A similar convention is to be held in Philadelphia, February 11-13 of this year. Elaborate preparations are being made (see article by Mr. McConaughy in this number of THE HERALD), and we hope that it will bring together a large body of consecrated men and exert a far-reaching influence.

The interest among the young people is growing as never before. The First International Missionary Convention under the direction of the Young People's Missionary Movement will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., March 10, 11, 12, 1908. The foremost speakers on missionary topics, and leading missionaries and influential native Christians will appear on the program. The Young People's Missionary

Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY

Knocking at the Door

By Rev. S. J. Fisher, D.D.

There are still many living who can remember parts of an old song that belonged to the negro minstrelsy of ante-bellum days, when slavery was yet with us, which ran something like this: "Who's dat knock-in' at de do'?" and the next line ran "You ain't good lookin' and you can't come in." To-day no worker in the great Southern mission field among the colored people need ask this question. We all know who throughout the Southland are knocking at the door. It is the boys and girls, young men and maidens, who knock at the doors of our schools and seminaries, eager to learn, anxious to be taught. In many places where our schools are open, we find more pupils coming than we can teach or provide for. Again and again there comes to our Board the request for an additional teacher so that the children who seek an education and industrial training can be properly taught. Again and again principals write telling us they must turn applicants away because the accommodations are insufficient and the teachers are too few.

Our Board is trying to build up and make its schools more efficient, and all the time it is beset with requests for larger buildings and increased facilities.

To hear this knocking at the door is gratifying since it is an evidence of a widespread desire for the best knowledge, and promises an opportunity to give these unformed natures a true religious training. It is gratifying again, because it permits teachers to sift out the unworthy and select the diligent. It is, however, a sad message to many to whom the word comes, "You can't come in."

Our Church should hear this eager knocking. It is only a small salary that

would secure an additional teacher. It is a very small sum that pays for a scholarship, and so opens the door to the outside knocker. At a number of schools enlargements have been made by the generous gifts of God's people; but at the doors of none of these does the knocking cease. Three times the present contributions of our Church could be used to great advantage and blessing among these negro youth of the South, and still leave us unable to meet the full need.

Many of the negroes are really knocking at the door that leads to eternal life. They have not yet known Christ or truly heard his gospel, or been taught of God. But they can be, and as they knock at our schools, they seek the place where true religion can be found, and where they can learn to live the Christian life.

They are knocking at the door of a wise and upright citizenship, and a life of honesty and purity. A good education surrounded with the Bible training is the only thing which can make these people a blessing, and not a burden and curse.

They are knocking at the door of our hearts. They ask us for the light and knowledge and truth which have made us happy and useful and strong, which have made us children of God, and have made the Christian family and the Christian home the most beautiful and most precious thing on earth. Shall we let them knock, and knock in vain? Shall we despise and condemn them to ignorance and idleness? Shall we say to them, "You can't come in"? God forbid. Let us rather open to them every door of opportunity that is open to any other race on God's earth, and let us bid them enter in the name of Christ.