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THE MISSIONARY SURVEY



FEBRUARY, 1915



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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sizes, oftentimes, the impossibility of their attainment. In all probability Dives would have responded to the needs of Lazarus at a distance, had his case been properly presented, but that does not excuse him for indifference to the human need nearest to him, and which necessarily had the first claim upon his generosity. The needy in Christian communities are often as far off from attainment of spiritual benefits as it would have been difficult for Lazarus to get a seat at the table of Dives.

February has been purposely left by the General Assembly for pressing the claims of work not under the care of the Assembly itself; and for years the Editors of the Home Mission Department of the MISSIONARY SURVEY

have invited friends of Local Home Missions to use its columns to get this important branch of Church operations before its readers. The Executive Secretary of Home Missions joins Drs. Booker, Crawford, Shields, and the various Presbyterian Chairmen in urging the claims of the Home Mission work in Presbyteries and Synods. The men serving these interests are worthy, and their needs are as pressing as those in any department of the Master's service.

Let pastors and sessions therefore, emphasize the special Synodical and Presbyterian work at this time as earnestly as they do Assembly's Home and Foreign Missions in their proper season.

THE CHURCH IS ONE.

The Church of Christ that He hath hallowed
here
To be His house, is scattered far and near,
From north to south, from east to west
abroad;
And yet in earth and heaven, through Christ
her Lord,

The Church is one.

One member knoweth not another here,
And yet their fellowship is true and near;
One is their Saviour, and their Father one;
One Spirit rules them and among them none
Lives to himself.

They live to Him who bought them with His
blood,
Baptized them with His Spirit pure and
good,
And, in true faith and ever-burning love
Their hearts and hopes ascend to seek above
The eternal Good.

O Spirit of the Lord, all life is Thine;
Now fill Thy Church with life and power
divine,
That many children may be born to Thee,
And spread Thy knowledge like the bound-
less sea.

The Church is one.

—A. G. Spangenberg, 1747.

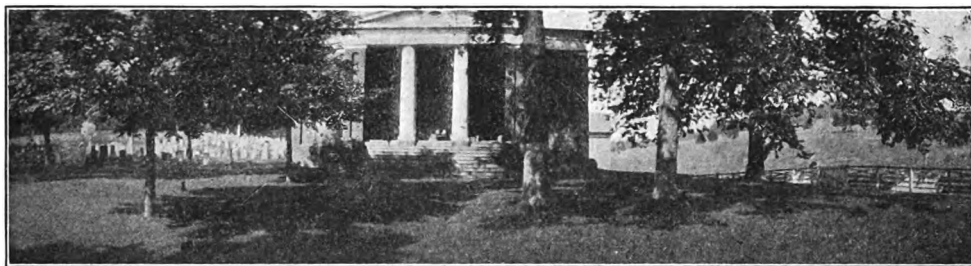
A VIGOROUS COUNTRY CHURCH.

REV. HENRY W. McLAUGHLIN.

THE New Providence Church is entirely in the country. Not more than five families live within half a mile of the church, and yet it now has a membership of about 490, being the second largest country church in the South. The congregational bounds embrace a territory sixteen miles in diameter, divided

into nine districts. We have nine elders, all farmers but one. Each has charge of a district, and is expected to visit in his field as much as the pastor, and to conduct family worship and keep an oversight of those under his charge.

In addition to the other meetings of the session, in the fall and spring,



The New Providence Church.

there is an all-day meeting at the home of an elder. At these "Semi-annual Meetings," the minutes are read for the half-year, time is taken to discuss all church matters, the roll is carefully gone over, and a committee appointed to wait upon any whose consistency is doubtful. The clerk reads the roll, both of the communicants and the baptized non-communicants, and each one is thoughtfully considered. The elders have a prayer list upon which are all the names of baptized non-communicants who are old enough to be admitted to the communion, and the elders speak to these as they deem it wise.

The deacons are also organized, with a chairman, a treasurer, and an assistant treasurer, who keeps account of the Benevolent funds. The deacons have an annual all-day meeting, and are a body of intelligent farmers who attend to the financial affairs of the church, without the supervision of the pastor. There are twenty-one sub-districts, and last year the elders, the deacons and twelve young men appointed by the officers, made a canvass of the congregation, putting a package of duplex envelopes in the hands of every member. Except for one or two deacons who did their part later, this was accomplished in one Sunday afternoon.

This is not a wealthy congregation, yet its annual budget is about \$16,000. The church supports a missionary in Japan, and gives liberally to all the other causes.

Sunday school is conducted every Sunday during the year, in the summer before the morning worship, in the winter just after it. We follow the International Lessons, and have in addition, a graded course of Bible verses, Bible facts, and Catechism questions for home study. Commencement days are held in January and June, when prizes and diplomas are given those who have recited the Catechism or completed the work assigned. The Home Mission Department, with an enrollment of over 100, has its superintendent and a visitor for each district.

There are, within six miles of the church, five Mission Sunday schools, conducted by our members. The session, at its fall semi-annual meeting, appoints a committee of from three to five for the conduct of each school. The good accomplished among the people of these hitherto neglected communities is great, but possibly the results are just as great in the development of the Christian character of the workers.

There is also a flourishing Christian Endeavor Society, which has social as well as religious meetings.

There are two women's societies in the church; a Missionary Society and a Ladies' Aid. The territory is also divided by them, so that every part of the parish is reached. Monthly meetings are held in the homes, or sometimes in a school house, the desire being to reach every part of the field in these monthly meetings.

The Flower Show is an annual Festival, when the ladies of the community exhibit their chrysanthemums, which they grow to perfection. A dinner is served on the two days of the show, and visitors come from far and near. The proceeds from the dinner, which amount usually to more than \$500, are used for local purposes.

Thanksgiving is also a gathering day at the church, when the community brings its gifts for the orphans. This year, the young people, after a picnic dinner, spent the afternoon in football and basketball.

The cemetery is under the charge of an exceedingly competent committee, and is conducted on a business basis for the good of the community. It has

been pronounced by all visitors the most beautifully-kept country cemetery that they had seen. A water system enables the caretaker to sprinkle the sward, and the flowers grow in profusion all summer.

In the one hundred and sixty-eight years of this old church's history, there have been but eight pastorates, including the present pastor, who has been here only five years. These men have all been preachers of the old Gospel. They have not looked upon their field as a stepping stone to a city pastorate, but have believed that the country affords the largest opportunity for usefulness in the Master's Kingdom.

Raphine, Va.

SYNODICAL HOME MISSIONS IN GEORGIA.

REV. M. MCG. SHIELDS,

Synodical Superintendent and Evangelist.

SOME twenty years ago a Synodical Home Mission Movement was started in this State, and after a few years of varying success was discontinued. Since that time each Presbytery has pushed its Mission work according to the needs of the field and the ability of the Presbytery. Recently there has been a strong desire on the part of the brethren in this State to resurrect the Synodical work. After several years of planning, praying and effort, this movement was started April 1, 1914. A Superintendent of Home Missions and Evangelism was put into the field, who immediately visited the Presbyteries in the spring meetings, presented the need and importance of this cause, and outlined the plans of the Synodical Committee. Every Presbytery cordially endorsed the movement and pledged hearty co-operation and liberal support.

The need for this co-operative movement was distressingly apparent. Over one-half million white people in the State of Georgia over ten years of age

were outside the evangelical churches. The Synod lacked one of having as many churches as the year before. The net gain in membership for the past year was 312, and the average net gain per year for the last five years was 250. Nearly one-half the churches in the Synod reported no additions on profession of faith, and five per cent. of the churches made no report at all. Surely something needed to be done, and the Synod of Georgia needed to do it.

The signal blessings which had rested on Synodical Mission work in other States encouraged the Georgia brethren to hope and pray for the same divine approval in this Synod. Six months' labor has more than justified their expectations. The Superintendent visited all the Presbyteries in order to co-ordinate the Synod's plans with those of the Presbyteries, that entire harmony might prevail in all departments of the work; visited twenty-one different churches, most of them greatly in need of assistance; held thirteen series of evangelistic services, in all of which the blessing of God was distinct-