

because the understanding was that the Every Member Canvass would end financial endeavors for the next twelve months. The secretary inquired if any financial goal had been set before the congregation to be reached by the Every Member Canvass, or, that failing, by subsequent efforts. The answer was "No."

Some such substitutes for the real Assembly's plan, which as interpreted by the Assembly itself, we believe to be the best plan yet devised, are blocking Foreign Mission gains, and often reducing the Foreign Mission gifts, in great numbers of our churches that seem unmindful of the fact that the fixing of a definite and adequate goal, and a sustained effort to reach that goal, are two essential features of the Assembly's plan.

2. The gifts of the Women's Societies are now being divided among all causes, with the result that since 1912, when the change went into effect, up to 1915, their Foreign Mission gifts increased only \$1,300, though their total gifts to all causes during that period increased \$59,200 (Assembly Minutes, 1912, p. 22; 1915, p. 78).

Not the slightest criticism of anyone is intended, least of all the societies, for this change and its results.

3. For the last six years, not counting the exceptional year when the Foreign Mission debt was paid, the people's gifts to Foreign Missions have averaged sixty-three and one-half per cent. of their gifts to the Assembly causes. The Assembly's recommended 54 per cent. for Foreign Missions "as a guide to our people in making their gifts" tends therefore to diminish by one-seventh, or nearly \$80,000, their gifts to Foreign Missions.

Of course, if the churches were to reach the \$1,200,000 goal set by the Assembly in its total apportionments to Assembly causes, the reduced percentage, being computed on this very large total, would be sufficient. But, as every one knows, these apportionment totals of the Assembly are never reached, often by several hundred thousand dollars. The actual receipts for Assembly causes last year, for example (1914-15), totaled \$861,000. Had the Church last year followed the proposed "guide to our people in making their gifts," the Foreign Mission debt on April 1, 1915, would have been \$142,000 instead of \$63,000.

The effect of the above-mentioned factors, operating during the last few years, would have utterly engulfed the work in debt but for one thing. That one thing, humanly speaking, has been the stupendous "special" efforts, through Self-Denial Envelopes, that have marked the closing quarter of the last three years, although May and October have also been utilized to the utmost. By reason of the action of the last Assembly appointing the first three weeks of February as one of the regular Foreign Mission seasons, these efforts should no longer be considered "special," but normal and regular.

Steady Growth in Receipts From Living Donors.

Although our committee has thus far been disappointed in the hope that the excellent Weekly Offering Envelope system would effect some equalization of our receipts throughout the year; and although of the whole year's contributions the proportion received by us between April 1st and January 1st has not risen in recent years, the amount to January 1st being less last year than the year before; yet with gratitude to God we report that our total annual receipts from living donors, in spite of the war and all other difficulties, have shown a steady growth from year to year without a single relapse. Even the year following the strain of paying the great debt showed a marked increase over the year preceding that effort.

We attribute this steady and uninterrupted growth, under God's blessing, mainly to the unremitting campaign of missionary education carried on throughout our Church.

Self-Support of Native Churches.

In many of our foreign fields the liberality of the often desperately poor native Christians is an example and a rebuke to our home churches. Yet one of the most pressing problems on nearly all Foreign Mission fields today, and one confessedly too much neglected in the past is how to promote in native churches that spirit of self-support which is essential to their development into healthy, self-governing, self-propagating churches. The enforced reduction in the appropriations for local work on the field, have been too severe, and have caused or will cause in many places hardships

and contractions of the work. Yet that the first reduction was in many quarters blessed of God to the increased liberality of native believers and the opening of new sources of revenue on the field, is gratifyingly evident from the letters of our missionaries.

Unprecedented Opportunities.

Over against this enforced reduction we place the following specimen quotations from our missionaries' letters, each written from a different mission station. Some were printed last year, but all represent up-to-date conditions and unsupplied needs.

1. "An amazing change has taken place. I am preaching the gospel to crowded houses, often there not being standing room."
2. "In despair people are now looking to Christianity as never before."
3. "The whole attitude of the people toward us and our work has changed."
4. "On my last visit the church was packed to overflowing, a large number having to sit on mats spread on the ground in the yard."
5. "In two years we have outgrown our quarters twice, and now have the problem of building a church capable of holding our congregations."
6. "The old prejudice is passing. Patients are crowding into our hospital from towns and villages far and near. Our present accommodations are utterly inadequate to meet the demands."
7. "Many pupils are turned away from the schools for lack of room."
8. "The schools are badly overcrowded, and for four years we have been unable to increase the number of boarders for lack of room."
9. "The old hostility is broken down. The doors stand open on every hand, but, alas, we have not the workers to enter them! Our boys' school had to refuse many applicants for lack of room, and our chapel is quite inadequate to seat the entire congregation."
10. "We are turning away girls every week from our girls' school because we have not dormitory room."
11. "Delegations averaging no less than seven a week the year round are coming to our station from native tribes and villages often far away, begging for teachers and preachers."

"One village, in glad expectation that its request would be granted, built a church, which, long ago, has rotted down unused.

"A persistent seeker after a teacher for his distant village, after a first, second and a third delegation had each been told, 'You must wait, as we have none to send,' cried out in despair, 'How long must we wait? Oh, teacher, ask the white man in your land, how long must we wait?'"

Whether our work shall be enlarged to meet these needs and opportunities will depend upon the action of this year's General Assembly and the amount of this year's contributions to Foreign Missions.

MINISTERIAL RELIEF ENDOWMENT FUND BULLETIN, NO. 10.

Henry H. Sweets, Secretary.

We are now beginning to hear from many of the churches that gave the congregation an opportunity to contribute to the Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief on Sunday, April 16th. Many sessions had to postpone this to a later day. Brethren, please do not overlook this matter. Give the people a chance to help us meet the offer of our liberal friend who will add \$68,000 to the Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief if the Church will contribute \$111,048.38 between now and January 1, 1917. We greatly need your help. Don't wait for others—others may wait for you.

We are pleased to announce the following contributions since our last report, to May 1st:

- Synod of Alabama**—Headland church, \$1.45; Livingston, \$15; Marion Junction, \$4.75; Selma, First, \$104.75; Valley Head Sabbath school, \$5.30; Rev. H. C. Carmichael, \$1; Mrs. Julia Dimick, \$5; Mr. E. C. Frazer, \$6; Rev. R. B. McAlpine, \$2; Miss Addie McZernow, \$5; Mrs. R. P. Pope, \$5; "A Friend, Epes, Ala.," \$1; "A Member of Adam's Grove church," \$2. Total, \$158.25. Total to date, \$703.40.
- Appalachia**—Bristol, Central, Ladies' Aid Society, \$15; Coal Creek church, \$1.10; Rogersville, Woman's Missionary Society, \$15; Royal Oak, \$111.35; Miss Ethel Cook, \$5; Mr. E. W. King, \$25; Mrs. E. Kate Miller, \$1; Rev. J. M. Sedgewick, \$5; Miss Julia Townes, \$10; Mrs. Anna N. Watkins, \$10; Mrs. J. S. West, \$5; "A Friend, Montreat, N. C.," \$10. Total, \$213.45. Total to date, \$428.45.

- Arkansas**—Arkadelphia church, \$5; Dobyville, \$6.15; Hot Springs, First, Ladies' Guild, \$5; Ladies' Missionary Society, \$12.50; Little Rock, First, \$25; Mrs. S. E. and A. McGill, \$2; Mrs. R. V. Moseley, \$2; "Two Friends," \$10. Total, \$67.65. Total to date, \$1,119.89.

- Florida**—Bethel, Woman's Missionary Society, \$5; Jacksonville, Riverside, Junior Auxiliary, \$3.75; Micanopy, Ladies' Aid Society, \$2.25; Mr. W. A. Doan, \$10; Mrs. Robert J. Knight, \$15; Mrs. Laura Palmer, \$2; Mrs. E. J. Young, \$1; Mr. C. F. Zeek, \$33.33. Total, \$72.33. Total to date, \$509.21.

- Georgia**—Augusta, First church, \$5; Decatur, Ladies' Aid Society, \$25; Macon, First, C. E. and M. R. Circle of Woman's Society, \$26.50; Mrs. W. E. Baker, \$10; Mr. E. P. Ellis, \$10; Miss Mary Russell, \$5; Mr. J. E. Woods, \$5; Mrs. J. W. Woolfolk, \$1; "A Friend, Cartersville, Ga.," \$1; "A Friend, Decatur, Ga.," \$2.50. Total, \$91. Total to date, \$949.10.

- Kentucky**—Augusta, Y. P. S. C. E., \$20; Morganfield, \$10; Paducah, First, \$59.65; Paris, \$12.13; Winchester, First, \$31.65; Miss Anna M. Bedinger, \$2; Miss Frances A. Blair, \$1; Mrs. John E. DuBose, \$100; Mrs. Addie Martin, \$1; Miss L. V. Shaw, \$2.50; "A Friend," \$1. Total, \$240.93. Total to date, \$1,353.40.

- Louisiana**—Alexandria, First, \$15; Calvary Sabbath school, \$6; Monroe, First, \$20. Total, \$41. Total to date, \$1,215.82.

- Mississippi**—Booneville, \$6.20; Edwards, \$9; Long Beach, \$6.80; Ridge-land, \$3.15; Sumner, \$2.50; Tallahatchie, \$1.97; Mr. J. G. Bridges, \$2; Mrs. M. M. Henley, \$1; Rev. P. C. Martin, \$4; Mr. Joe Moseley, \$0.50; Mr. George R. Ratchford, \$2; Mr. W. M. Webster, \$3. Total, \$42.12. Total to date, \$499.48.

- Missouri**—Columbia church, \$50; Marston, \$0.50; Point Pleasant, \$1.10; Mr. M. J. Gauss, \$2; Mrs. B. R. Ireland, \$2.50; "Friends," \$25. Total, \$81.10. Total to date, \$596.85.

- North Carolina**—Burlington, Ladies' Society, \$5; Cleveland, Ladies' Aid Society, \$17.50; Durham, First, Ladies' Society, \$144.75; Fayetteville, First, Lakeview Society, \$5; Lincolnton, Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society, \$5.50; Newton, Woman's Missionary Society, \$2.75; Union church, \$7.08; Sabbath school, \$2.11; Winston, First, Rankin Society, \$5; Miss Eva May Bryan, \$1; Miss Lila S. Love, \$1; Mrs. W. B. Murphy, \$2; Mrs. W. A. Sharpe, \$0.25; Mrs. T. M. Washington, \$5; Mrs. Martha F. Wiswall, \$3; "The Carr Moore Memorial Fund," \$10. Total, \$216.94. Total to date, \$2,113.52.

- Oklahoma**—Cheyenne church, \$5; Miss E. C. Beall, \$2; Rev. Charles B. Boyles, \$1. Total, \$8. Total to date, \$64.81.

- South Carolina**—Blenheim, Earnest Workers, \$2.10; Columbia Seminary Missionary Society, \$10; Enoree Presbytery, \$1,626.25; Memorial, \$8; Hartsville, Ladies' Missionary Society, \$1; New Wappetaw, \$5.75; York, First, Ladies' Missionary Society, \$35; "The Ella R. Houston Workers' Missionary Society," \$5; Mrs. S. E. Corbett, \$1; Mrs. T. W. DeVane, \$10; Mrs. W. A. Hughes, \$1; Miss Mary H. Means, \$5; Mrs. Anna M. Simonton, \$2.50; Mrs. Annie D. Wilson, \$1; "Friends in South Carolina," \$10; "M. B. C.," \$3. Total, \$1,726.60. Total to date, \$2,770.22.

- Tennessee**—Collierville, Sabbath school, \$6; Memphis, Idlewild, \$61.25; Shiloh, \$5; Miss Mollie Branch, \$2; Mr. Duncan McKay, \$1; Mrs. J. J. McKeellar, \$5; Mr. J. M. Overton, \$50. Total, \$130.25. Total to date, \$1,187.77.

- Texas**—Ellisville, Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society, \$18; Galveston, First, Woman's Missionary Society, \$10; Midland, First, Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society, \$10; Petrolia

- church, \$6; Stanton, \$4.50; Trinity, \$4.45; "A Friend, Fort Worth," \$10; "Friend, Palestine," \$5; "A Friend, Dallas," \$5. Total, \$72.95. Total to date, \$3,755.82.

- Virginia**—Anderson Memorial church, \$33; Appomattox, Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society, \$6; Baltimore, Franklin Street, \$250; Belmont, \$5; Bluefield, Ladies' Missionary Society, \$10; Charlottesville, Sunday-school Home Department, \$20; Ladies' Society, \$70; Front Royal, Ladies' Aid Society, \$2; Mercy Seat, Ladies' Aid Society, \$5.50; Mossy Creek, Nettie Paul Missionary Society, \$1; Newport News, First, \$20; Norfolk, Colley Memorial, \$15; Norfolk, First, \$514; Norfolk, Second, \$36.72; Portsmouth, First, Junior League, \$5; Intermediate Christian Endeavor Society, \$2.50; Richmond, Hoge Memorial, Woman's Home Missionary Society, \$10; Richmond, Overbrook, Woman's Missionary Society, \$2.10; Rockfish, \$2.15; Rustburg, \$1; South Boston, \$28.47; Union, \$5; Miss Emma A. Andrews, \$2; Mrs. H. P. Carrington, \$3; Mrs. E. T. Dudley, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Lawson, \$5; Mr. H. Kent McCay, \$25; Miss Irene McGlamery, \$1; Rev. L. B. Turnbull, \$12.50; Mrs. S. M. Wilson, \$30; "Friends," \$100; "A Friend," \$1. Total, \$1,224.94. Total to date, \$4,763.58.

- West Virginia**—Hinton, Woman's Missionary Society, \$4; Liberty, Sunday-school, \$5; Mill Creek, Ladies' Missionary Society, \$5; Putney Memorial, \$9; Mr. George M. Beltz, \$5; Mr. John Q. Dickinson, \$500; Hoover, Jr., \$10; Mrs. J. H. Blackford, Miss Mattie C. Wood, \$0.75; Miss Susan I. Wood, \$1; Mr. James A. Zell, \$5; "A Friend," \$20. Total, \$564.75. Total to date, \$2,700.30.

- Various States**—Mrs. Anna W. Ludlow, Pa., \$5; Mrs. Mariam E. White, Cal., \$1.50. Total, \$6.50. Total to date, \$120.

Miscellaneous—Total to date, \$100. The gifts to date to meet this proposition have come from these sources: Churches, \$6,535.25; Sabbath schools, \$584.78; societies, \$2,990.06; individuals, \$14,741.53; miscellaneous, \$100. Total, \$24,951.62.

Every thousand dollars given now will add \$1,500 to the Endowment Fund—every dollar contributed will increase it to the amount of \$1.50.

The last General Assembly declared that the Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief "should be regarded as an opportunity for special liberality rather than as a part of the regular budget."

In making remittances please be sure to clearly specify that it is for the Endowment Fund—otherwise it will go into the general treasury, and will be used for immediate needs.

Send all money to John Stites, treasurer, Fifth and Market Streets, Louisville, Ky.

A LENGTHY NOVEL.

Kiong of Bakin, the popular Japanese writer, who began his novel in 1852 and found a publisher to print it, holds the world's record for length. The novel makes 106 volumes all told, each containing 1,000 pages. It weighs about thirty pounds. We hope it will not be translated into English and sent to us for review.

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