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SEEKING OF A. B. C. F. M.

Under the Shadow of Calamity.

MARTYRDOMS IN CHINA

Statistics of the Work of the Great Missionary Body in its Ninetieth Year.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Oct. 10.—The nineteenth annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions convened this morning in Pilgrim Congregational Church and will be in session three days. Between two and three hundred corporate members, officers of the American Board and women's auxiliaries, missionaries from foreign and home fields, as well as prominent ministers and laymen from many Congregational churches, were present. Rev. Dr. Michael Burnham, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, delivered a short address of welcome. A fitting response to Dr. Burnham's eloquent remarks was made by Samuel B. Capen, L.L.D., of Boston, president of the American Board, who said, in part:

"There will be two thoughts constantly before us all through these meetings. The first is that it is the closing year of the century, which will be known in history as the great missionary century. "And the second thought will be the fearful story from China. Never before have we held our meetings under such a shadow. We remember the noble men and women from our firesides who wear the martyr's crown; we remember the native Christians who have not hesitated to show their fidelity by shedding their life-blood, and our prayers will go out to the home friends whose hearts are bleeding and torn. Nineteen years ago in this city, the Shan Si Mission was inaugurated, and this year it has been practically exterminated in awful massacres. "St. Louis has held many conventions, planned business the last few years but I venture to predict that none has been as important in the greatness of its outlook as the meeting of this American Board. It reaches in its influence around the world and has to do with the mightiest forces that can lift the nations. "The interest of the press in all these great world movements is one of the most significant things of this generation. How different all this is from the conditions even twenty years ago, to say nothing of the periods in the early history of the Board. "And it ought to be noted to the credit of the daily press as well as the great magazines that as a rule they have understood the great crisis in China. Speedily the great truths came home to them that the Chinese uprising was not chiefly because of the missionaries. They saw that the great reason was the injustice of the great foreign nations in stalling their ports and territory and the commercial progress which had often selfishly and heartlessly run rough shod over Chinese traditions and which was depriving laborers in great numbers of their employment. I am not familiar with the facts in the West, but our press in the East has editorially recognized the humanity and unselfishness, at least, of most of our missionary effort, which we hear of sweeping criticisms, let us remember there is another side, and recall the great service the missionaries render for humanity and righteousness. "Rev. Charles R. Daniels, D.D., secretary of the home department, read his annual report, which is the special report of the prudential committee. It was as follows:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES. The report of the prudential committee, home department, stated that death had claimed from the ranks of the corporate body ten members whose services have ranged from 1851 to 1898. During the year forty new missionaries have been sent to their several fields of appointment—eleven men, three of whom are physicians, and twenty-nine ladies, twelve the wives of missionaries and two of them physicians. It is expected that the coming session of Congress a bill will be introduced including, among other features, the repeal of the legacy tax to institutions of a literary, educational or charitable character. During the past year there has been debate in the House of Representatives on the subject of the Congregational missionary societies from the Congregational House income of \$1,124. The press has been an effective agent for good. The magazines and the secular press have aided the work greatly. In addition to the missionaries assigned under the auspices of the forward movement committee, some twenty-two missionaries or missionary families have been assigned through other agencies. In two cases missionary families have been taken by individuals; in two cases by churches; in two cases by churches grouped for the purpose; in two cases by churches grouped, and the other cases by individual churches. The Missionary Herald circulation is increasing, though slowly. The Congregational Work enters about 60,000 families. The wants of the children are still met by the Mission Dayspring, issued conjointly by the American Board and the Woman's Board. The Rev. Charles C. Cregan, D.D., district secretary, makes the following report from the Middle District, including Connecticut and Ohio, and the Middle and Southern Atlantic States. The total receipts are only slightly less than last year, notwithstanding \$1,000,000 has been gathered for the sufferers in India from organizations largely centering in New York. The contributions from the living have increased \$16,385, while the legacies have decreased by the sum of \$17,276. From the Y. P. S. C. E. and Sunday schools there has been a gain of \$1,954. The women have increased their gifts \$1,019. The Rev. A. N. Hitchcock, Ph. D., district secretary, presents the following report from the interior district, the district including fourteen States and Territories west of Ohio, and the Southern Mississippi States: The twelve or fifteen churches which have undertaken the support of their own foreign missionary pastors, while largely increasing their gifts during the past year, have not in all cases fully renewed their pledges at the expiration of the year. There has been an increase in donations from all sources of \$6,640. The auxiliary work has probably aggregated \$19,000. The number of churches contributing from some sources has increased by eighty, while the number taking public collections is less by thirty-two. There has been a gain also in Sunday school contributions. The Rev. Walter Frear, general agent, makes the following report for the Pacific Coast agency: Mission freight was sent by the Aeolus, a schooner newly built for the Jalut Society, and by the Queen of the Isles.

Four missionaries were sent to re-open work on Ponape. The missionaries passing to and fro have included forty-four adults, and including children, fifty-six persons. The churches of Southern California and Oregon have made decidedly the largest gains in gifts to the treasury of the board this year, as did those of Northern California the year before. The receipts are larger by \$1,582 than in the previous year. The Women's Mission Board of the Pacific Coast made up the amount pledged, and have a small surplus. They are also undertaking to raise \$2,000 for the twentieth century fund. Report of the secretary of the American Bible Society, Rev. E. W. Gilman, D.D.: Since September 1, 1899, we have put at disposal of our missions in Spain and Austria for the purpose of circulating the Scriptures, \$850, and we have also made consignments of 12,788 volumes of the Scriptures, of the value of \$2,822, for sale and distribution through our missionaries in Ceylon, South Africa and Micronesia (including Guam). In other parts of the world, where the American Board is at work, direct and efficient aid has been extended by means of resident agents of the American Bible Society. The American Tract Society has made good grants to missionaries of the Board in five of its missions to the amount of \$592. The Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society has contributed Sunday school literature to representatives of the board of six different missions, and at nineteen different stations, in value \$160. One year ago we reported the increase in receipts from individuals and churches as most satisfactory, amounting to \$53,400 for the distinctive work of the board, and above \$19,000 for the distinctive work of the women's foreign boards. There has been a gain from these sources this year, but by a much smaller figure. One year ago we reported a serious falling off in legacies. This year there has been a remarkable increase over the previous year. The officers and committee of the Board subscribed nearly \$37,000 to raise a fund of \$250,000 from those who are able to give an extra offering which will in no particular conflict with the regular income of the Board. At least \$125,000 has gone from our constituency this year in answer to the cry of distress from India. There are about 5,000 Sunday schools from which we might expect offerings. Of these schools 1,246 made contributions to the work of the distinctive work of the board of about 78 per cent. The amount contributed was \$17,204, or a gain of about 55 per cent over the previous year. There are 3,886 endeavorer societies connected with our churches. Of these societies 1,537 contribute to the work of foreign missions. The Board has 2,000 societies left to be brought into line. The total contributions from these societies are \$22,496, as against \$21,577 last year. This sum is divided between the American Board and the Woman's Boards in the ratio of \$11,779 to the former and \$10,717 to the latter. The regular donations from individuals, churches and various societies were \$515,536, a gain over the previous year of \$26,186. Of this sum \$214,774 came through the contributions of the several Women's Boards, an increase of \$14,964 above the previous year of \$20,810. The income from the permanent funds exhibits a large increase over last year by \$7,125. The increase of special donations for the year amounted to \$19,588. The receipts for the year from all sources, including \$1,272 for the debt are \$737,957, an increase from last year of \$32,758. This is more than the average for the past five years by the amount of increase in legacies, which was a little over \$50,000. The total expenditures of the Board from all directions have been \$726,051, and a debt now resting upon the Board is \$82,632. The report of the treasurer, Frank H. Wiggin of Boston, showed that in expenditures the cost of missions had been \$676,165; the cost of agencies, \$17,119; the cost of publications, \$9,304; the cost of administration, \$29,461; balance for which the Board was in debt September 1, 1899, \$58,527; total, \$820,588. Receipts, \$737,957; balance for which the Board is in debt August 31, 1900, \$82,631; total, \$820,588.

CHINESE CRISIS IN BRIEF ITEMS

The British will hold Shan-hai-Kwan. The Russians have evacuated the summer palace. The French are provoking riots in Yunnan province. Eight thousand German soldiers will winter in Peking. Half the Japanese army in China will soon be withdrawn. There is renewed persecution of Christians in Shantung. Wholesale massacres by Russians are reported from the Amur. The powers may destroy the Chinese fleet in Formosa Straits. Li Hung Chang will go to Peking with a Russian bodyguard. Ching Wan Tao, a Chinese port, has been occupied by the British. After its capture Moukden was burned and looted by the Russians. The United States and Great Britain are now in diplomatic relations with China. Prince Tuan's successors are liberal minded men from the province of Manchuria. Russians will give the Peking-Tientsin railroad over to German management. Chang Au, the ancient capital of China, may be re-occupied by the imperial family. The Chinese court will go further inland and remain for a time in Shen-si province. The Empress Dowager was reported, on October 7th, to be seriously ill in the province of Shan-si. The spirit of the Chinese court, in the conduct of the peace negotiations, is an anti-foreign as ever. England is the only one of the powers that has not agreed to the German proposals in regard to China. The American signal corps beat all other detachments to Peking, and had the first wire working into Peking. The Japanese were next. The order made by General Chaffee for the surrender of all the property held by the Americans along the water front at Tien-Tsin has been revoked. It is reported in St. Petersburg, according to the correspondent of the Times at the Russian capital, that the Chinese fleet in Formosa Straits attempted to engage the Russian armored cruiser Rurik, but the latter's speed frustrated the plan. Li Hung Chang has ordered the release and safe escort to Peking of five Belgian engineers and fifteen missionaries who have been kept prisoners many weeks at Pao-tung. Li Hung Chang is apparently doing his utmost to please the powers. The British river gunboat Woodcock has gone to Hankow to survey the Han river. It is significant of future events, regarding the capture of the Chinese port, that the British river gunboat Woodcock is surveying a landing place near the Kang Yin forts. The United States Government has proposed to the powers to insist that Prince Tuan be beheaded; that the Emperor be induced to go to Peking to a government of progressives, under the support of European bayonets, and that the Empress Dowager be deposed." So says a London paper.

STEIGEMANN PLANNED HIS DOUBLE CRIME

"I write to say that my father-in-law has the right to possess everything that I have. I hope he will take good care of my children. We had been living in Christie lane, and during my absence my wife did something which took her away from me. She left my children from 5 in the morning until 11 at night almost starving and went to dark places with this good-for-nothing fellow. I don't think there is any harm in killing a woman of that sort. Dear reader, will you please look to my children? Good-bye. I have no further time but to say that this good-for-nothing fellow and my wife caused all this trouble. My father-in-law has a right to everything. He has absolutely nothing to do with the crime. I hope he will look out for my children. The things my wife has done were bad. B. STEIGEMANN."

Benjamin Steigemann before attempting to murder his wife and kill himself prepared for the end by writing letters exonerating his father-in-law, M. Dollinger, and telling of the infidelity of his wife. The letters were written in French, while a number of statements as to his business affairs were in Hebrew and Russian. J. H. Schnack, one of the jurymen, translated the French letters, while M. Dollinger, the father of the woman who is now lying in the Queen's Hospital,

translated with a trembling voice the Russian and Hebraic characters. It was a premeditated murder, as the letters all showed. The coroner's jury, composed of Messrs. J. H. Schnack, P. H. Burnette, D. G. Camarinos, Wm. Smithes, W. H. Savage and P. Desney, after hearing the testimony of Dr. Emerson, M. Dollinger and Officer Hanrahan, rendered the following verdict: "We find that B. Steigemann came to his death in Honolulu October 17 from injuries to the brain, result of a gunshot wound from a bullet discharged out of a revolver held in his own hand with suicidal intent." M. Dollinger, who was present when the tragedy took place, testified to the facts as already given in the Advertiser's account of the shooting. Officer Hanrahan testified to certain statements made by the dead man. He had heard Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth ask Steigemann as he lay dying at the hospital, if he had shot his wife. Steigemann answered, "Yes." He had heard Mrs. Steigemann in answer to a question of the Deputy Sheriff state that her husband had fired the shots into her body. She had also stated that her father had not shot her husband. Mrs. Steigemann was reported resting easily last night shortly before midnight but that she was falling rapidly.

LIPTON WILL SEEK THE CUP AGAIN

Challenge was Sent to New York for an August Race.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—Sir Thomas Lipton, later in the day, informed a representative of the Associated Press that his challenge is on board the White Star steamer Germanic, due at New York Thursday, and that he prefers that all information as to its contents be given out by the New York Yacht Club. The letter challenging contains a suggestion as to the date of the race, which, it is understood, will be in August. It is reported that the challenge yacht will be built on the Thames and that she will be named Shamrock. According to rumor, Robert Wringe, one of the commanders of the old Shamrock, will command the new racer. LONDON, Oct. 10.—It is reported here that a challenge from Sir Thomas Lipton for another series of races for the America's cup reached the New York Yacht Club this morning. At the office of Sir Thomas Lipton today the report that his challenge had reached New York was denied. It appears, however, that it was recently mailed or that it is about to be sent to New York. NEW YORK, Oct. 10.—J. S. Vodie, secretary of the New York Yacht Club, said that a letter was received today from Sir Thomas Lipton, announcing that the Lipton cup for seventy-footers is on the Germanic, due here tomorrow. There was no challenge, he said.

NEEDS OF THE ARTILLERY.

Not Enough Men to Care for the Armament. WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—Accompanying the report of Major General Brooke, commander of the Department of the East, to the War Department, was a report by Major Story, Seventh Artillery Inspector. Major Story states that the personnel of the artillery is manifestly inadequate to serve the armament already mounted, and he believes there is such general recognition of this fact that there will be an increase in artillery forces at the coming session of Congress.

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Revenue Rulings.

Revenue Collector William Haywood calls the attention of local tobacco dealers to the rule of the United States Treasury department forbidding the removal of tobacco from the original stamped package for display in show windows. In San Francisco recently there have been several confiscations of tobacco used for display purposes which had been removed from the original package. Dealers are also reminded that it is illegal for wholesale dealers to remove goods from stamped packages for sale to retailers. Retailers are only allowed to buy from wholesalers in full package lots and violations of this provision may mean severe punishment. For sprains, swellings and lameness there is nothing so good as Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Try it. For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., wholesale agents.

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