

SEND TO THE SOLDIERS.—When you finish reading this paper, place a 1-cent stamp on this notice, hand same to any postal employee, and it will be placed in the hands of our soldiers or sailors at the front. No wrapping—No address. A. S. BURLESON, Postmaster-General.

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## Editorial Notes and Comment

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**O**CTOBER and Foreign Missions. The cause and the month have long been wedded together in our Church. Let us make the coming month a period in which to celebrate this wedding. Shall we consider it a Silver Wedding or a Golden Wedding? There never has been a time when we ought to consider this subject as carefully as we ought to just now. Begin by reading carefully the communications sent out from our Foreign Mission Committee. They will give some good reasons for giving this subject serious thought and prayer. God is wonderfully blessing the work of our Church in mission fields. More is being accomplished than ever before, and the opportunities are greater than ever. Large reinforcements are needed. High cost has reached the foreign field, as it has affected us at home. Most mission fields are in countries where silver is the basis of currency. Silver to-day is worth almost exactly double what it was a year or two ago. For instance, our missionaries in China have their salaries paid in a certain number of Mexican dollars. Heretofore these dollars could be purchased by our Committee at about fifty cents each. Now they cost about a dollar each. The missionary gets no more, for his dollar to-day will probably not buy as much as it did formerly, though it costs twice as much to get it to him. This extra cost must be provided for. We should make special effort not to let the war or anything else diminish our interest in the cause of a dying world.

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**R**ALLY DAY is a very important occasion for the Sunday-schools. Remember, it is October 14th. An old man once asked us what was the meaning of the word "remember" in the fourth commandment, and then proceeded to answer his own question by saying that he thought it meant to remember the Sabbath on Saturday and get ready for it before it came. So in this way remember Rally Day. Dr. Gilbert Glass, the superintendent of Sunday-schools, has sent literature on this subject to all the Sunday-schools. If you have received yours or want more, write to him at Richmond and ask for it. Every superintendent should get all his teachers together and plan for the best day possible. Plans should be made to get all of the school and as many others as possible to attend this service, which, with the consent of the pastor, ought to take the place of the regular preaching service. But mere attendance is not all. Plans should be put into operation for improving the school in every way possible. A campaign should be started at once to secure new scholars to be reported that day. Make

a special effort to increase the membership of the adult classes. Rally Day ought to mean a good deal for the individual school, but it will require work and preparation beforehand. Do not forget that there are many sections of our country where there are no Sunday-schools, and see that a good offering is made to help our Executive Committee to give schools to these communities.

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**A** WRITER in an exchange asks the question: "What does the Church paper mean to the pastor?" and proceeds to answer it. Instead of giving his answer or answering it ourselves, we would like to hear from some of our pastor-readers as to what help they find in having a Church paper in their own homes and in the homes of their people.

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### GENERAL PERSHING'S MESSAGE TO THE SOLDIERS.

Major-General Pershing, who is in command of the United States troops in France, and who is a Presbyterian elder, has sent a message to the American soldiers through the New York Bible Society. It is to be inserted in the small khaki-covered Testaments, which are to be given to the men. This is his message:

"Aroused against a nation waging war in violation of all Christian principles, our people are fighting in the cause of liberty. Hardships will be your lot, but trust in God will give you comfort. Temptation will befall you, but the teachings of our Saviour will give you strength. Let your valor as a soldier and your conduct as a man be an inspiration to your comrades and an honor to your country."

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**P**ROFESSING CHRISTIANS need to be aroused in some way to the reality and the seriousness of religion. Instead of being placed first in thought and life, it too often is the subject to which the least thought is given. An earnest, consecrated and faithful pastor, whose heart is much troubled, writes to us: "With all my efforts to impress the importance of real religion, especially in these times of stress and foreboding, it seems very hard to woo people from worldly things and lead them diligently to think of and seek after the higher and the enduring." We fear that this pastor's experience can be duplicated in that of thousands of other pastors. God often sent wars upon Israel, because they neglected Him and His service. Who can say that this is not the reason why we have had this terrible war sent upon us?

**S**OLDIERS are leaving home and gathering in the training camps. It may not be long before they are at the battle front. Now is the time for the churches to get to work earnestly in their behalf. The churches near the camps are making strenuous efforts to meet the demands that will be made upon them by the presence of the thousands of soldiers that will be gathered there. But the churches at home have the opportunity of doing much for these men. First they should make a list of all from their own congregation, and of those not definitely connected with other churches. The various churches of a community ought to unite at least in making these lists, so that no soldier shall be overlooked. Have a committee of one or more to see that this list is kept accurate, and that the proper address of each one is secured and needed changes are made. Plans should be made so that letters, papers, books and magazines shall be sent regularly to each one. Send also packages of such things as will add to the comfort and pleasure of the men. Show them that the Church is thinking about them, and by all means pray for them, not merely in the prayers that will be made for all the army, but especially for each one on the list individually. They need your personal interest and prayers.

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**P**ROPHETCY is an interesting study. But it is a dangerous study. God in His all-wise providence has not generally made His prophecies so clear and definite that we can see beforehand just when or how they are to be fulfilled. Many people seem to think that all the important events of the world's history are foretold in the Bible. This is a great mistake. Many are now giving themselves much concern about the bearing of prophecy on the present war. Our judgment is that God does not intend us to know much about prophecies until they are fulfilled. We believe that it is much more important for us to do the duty that God gives us to do to-day, than it is to spend time and energy trying to find out what God is going to do in the future. If He wanted us to know to-day what the outcome of the war is going to be, He would have told us. As He has not, we can safely leave it all in His hands. Each one of us can find enough to do, in the demands made upon us by our government and our God, to occupy every moment of our time, to require the putting forth of every effort in our power, to call forth every prayer that we can offer. "God is in heaven, and all is well with the world."