

REPORT
OF THE
PUBLICATION HOUSE, LEON, GTO.

J. E. Davis, Mgr.

The years 1912-13 will go down as fateful years in the history of Mexico. With the fearful war conditions that prevailed during the last part of 1912 and that had their culmination in the ten days bombardment in the heart of the beautiful old City of Mexico and the downfall of the Madero government in the month of February of the present year, the continued warfare waged against the provisional government of Huerta, which continues unabated to the present time, with little or no prospects of immediate peace, and with the international complications that have arisen producing as a serious consequence the financial panic that prevails in the republic, we have had an altogether unpropitious year for our Mission work in the land of Anahuac. To say that we feel satisfied with the meager results obtained would be, to say the least, an exaggeration; to say that we are thankful to our Heavenly Father that conditions have been no worse and that our work has not suffered more than it has, but voices the true sentiments of our hearts. True, we have not done all we had planned to do, yet, with the help of the Lord, we have done something--we have not been idle. We have not been exposed to danger as some of our missionaries have been. The ravages of war have not invaded this State, and the scare head-lines of the sensational press have not apparently caused any illwill toward us on the part of the peaceably inclined inhabitants of this city, where our Publication House is located.

The manager and his family have not felt justified in leaving the work during the year, and at the present critical moment still feel it their duty to remain at their post until there is some real cause for leaving the country.

OUR PERIODICALS.

During the year we have continued the publication of our news-paper, El Bautista. On account of the greatly reduced facilities for gathering

the news from the different fields, as also the great cost of a weekly paper, we made it a bi-monthly beginning with January 1st of the present year. The subscription list has been reduced more than half on account of the war conditions, and during the year many post offices have been closed, and we have been utterly unable to reach many of our subscribers. Yet we have continued the publication of the paper, hoping from one week to another that the conditions would become more favorable.

El Expositor Bíblico, our Sunday School quarterly, has not suffered as much as El Bautista, on account of having a great many subscribers outside of Mexico. We have been printing nearly 3,000 copies of this booklet during the year. Bro. G. H. Lacy has written the lesson expositions and Miss Sarah Hale, who once was a missionary of our Board, the lesson applications. The quarterly has been better appreciated, seemingly, than ever before.

Nuestros Niños, our paper for the children, was suspended temporarily, in May, on account of the fact that the subscription list did not seem to justify the expense at that time. We intend to begin again the publication of this little paper January 1st, if conditions are no worse than at the present time.

For 1914 we are planning even greater things in the way of Sunday School literature. El Expositor will be continued as at present, except that there will be a slight change in the editorial staff, on account of the fact that Bro. Lacy is in the States on a vacation. The Manager of the Publication House will take his place for the first six months at least. Miss Hale will continue contributing for the paper, writing Historical Notes which will be of great value to the subscribers.

Nuestros Niños will be made into a nice little story paper for little people, with only a very brief lesson story for each Sunday.

In addition to these papers, we have decided to publish, beginning with January, a primary quarterly, suitable for Boys and girls from 10 to 15 years of age. We have had many calls for such a quarterly and feel that its success should be assured almost from the start. We expect to call this quar-

terly, La Revista Juvenil, The Juvenile Review. Mrs. Susan Jones de Arévalo has consented to edit this paper for us.

BOOKS AND TRACTS.

During the Mission year we have printed an edition of 2000 copies of a translation of Chiniquy's book, "The Woman, the Priest and the Confessional." We have already sold about one fourth of this edition, 200 copies going to Perú and 200 to Cuba. This book was offered for sale only about two months ago.

We have finished the publication of "The Other Comforter" by Hamlett. This splendid little book was translated by Rev. A. S. Rodriguez, one of our Cuban pastors in the employ of the Home Board. The book is in the binding department and will be ready to offer for sale in a short time. It was published in installments in El Bautista, and of course for the present its sale will not be as great among Baptists on this account. This book we confidently believe is an important addition to our list of publications in Spanish.

The Compendium of Theology, by Pendleton, was at last finished, after many interruptions. This is the second edition of this work. We have made an edition of 1000 copies this time. Naturally the sale will be slow, as many already possess a copy of the first edition. But we have already sold a goodly number and have inquiries from several workers in South and Central America about the book.

We have completed the publication of a tract on Mormonism, by Bogard, which will be of use in certain fields to combat the errors of this great monster, which was getting a strong foothold in Mexico before the revolution began.

Recently we got up and printed a catalogue of our publications, which will be a help to us in selling our books and introducing our papers.

Last, but not least by any means, we are beginning the publication of an edition of 3000 copies of El Nuevo Pacto, the Bible Unión Version of the New Testament in Spanish. This is one of the most important undertakings of this House, since its inception, we believe, and this edition will sell well, as there is a great demand for it among the Baptists in all Spanish speaking

countries where we have work established. It is our desire to get this edition ready by January 1st if possible.

Besides these new books and pamphlets, we have made several editions of reprints--tracts of known value in the work of evangelizing and indoctrinating the people.

WORK FOR THE PUBLIC.

For several years, we have been doing printing for the public, refusing of course all work that we do not consider in keeping with good morals--such as circulars advertising intoxicating drinks, saloons, political publications that have for their aim mudslinging and personal criticisms, all revolutionary documents of whatever character, etc. During the latter part of 1912, and the first part of this year, we had more work than we could do, thus deriving a nice profit for the upbuilding of the plant and the publication of more literature. On account of the complete stagnation of all business, we do very little work of this nature now, thus cutting off one of our most important sources of revenue.

Not only is it a source of revenue, but it enables us also to come in contact with the people, thus winning their respect, confidence and good-will, which we regard as a great missionary asset. We set them an example in business squareness and honesty that counts for the Cause of our Lord. If we do not succeed in evangelizing the people in this way, we do at least liberalize them and that is a large contribution toward the ultimate evangelization of a people.

HELPERS AND WORKMEN.

We feel constrained to mention in this connection our helper and collaborer, Bro. Carlos Castillo. This is one of our most consecrated Mexican workers. He has been with us now for more than a year and aids us very materially in editing the literature, correcting copy and proofs and in the services of the church in the absence of Bro. Benson, missionary in charge of this field.

Bro. Benson has helped us with the book-keeping, and also, when the

Manager was absent attending the Convention in St. Louis and visiting his parents, he was of valuable assistance to Mrs. Davis in managing the plant.

Bro. Carlos Sotomayor has been in charge of the shop now for several months, and ^{he}id is a good, honest Christian man, who has been and is a great help to the Manager, who has to give a good part of his time to the editorial work.

During the busy season we had from 15 to 20 workmen occupied in the plant, but now we only have from 10 to 12 on account of the dullness of the times and lack of funds to undertake anything more for the present in the way of literature.

NEW MATERIAL PURCHASED.

We purchased about \$1.000 worth of new type, book-binding accessories, etc., at the beginning of the year, as well as several thousand dollars worth of paper stock which was needed for the extensive business we were doing.

PLANS FOR 1914.

We are not in a position to make large plans for the coming year. We do not know what to expect. The war may continue. Financial conditions are likely to get even worse. Sales are likely to be reduced even more than at present. So we do not know what to expect. Our plans are to go forward as steadily as we can, trusting in our Lord for help, doing with our might what our hands find to do. But we can not announce definitely our program for next year at this time. We hope to be able to continue our forward march and trust that we shall be blessed of God as heretofore. We need the prayers of the brethren in this critical time.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF THE YEAR.

As we make an inventory of the plant but once a year, it is impossible to make a full report of our financial condition. This report we make the first of the year, and for this reason we limit ourselves to a brief summary of money received and disbursed during the year.

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Cash received from all sources, July 1st, 1912 to	
June 30th, 1913.....	\$ 12,629.36.
Cash disbursed July 1st 1912 to June 30th, 1913.....	12,179.66
Cash on hand July 1st, 1912.....	\$ 355.82
Diference between amt. recd. and amt. spent.....	449.70
Amt. on hand June 30th, 1913.....	\$ 805.52

This accumulation was due to the fact that the Manager was in the States and several bills that were due, were held over till his return.

Only an inventory could show the way the money has been invested, and the real financial condition of the plant; but this will show the volume of business done during the Mission year.

J. E. Davis.
León, Gto., Mexico, September 10th, 1913. *mgr.*