VOLUME XIII. NUMBER 2

Published Monthly by Home Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention.

ATLANTA, GA. SEPTEMBER 1901.

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Editorial Notes.

DEDICATION OF NEW CHAPEL AT SAGUA LA GRANDE.

Many of the readers of OUR HOME FIELD are familiar with the fact that Sagua la Grande is one of the most aristocratic and cultured cities on the Island of Cuba. Our mission station at this point is in charge of Dr. E. F. Rodriguez, a prominent practicing physician. Dr. Rodriguez is a gentleman of superior intellectual and social attainments, and a most consecrated Christian character. He was baptized by Mr. O'Halloran about two years ago, was ordained to the ministry in January, 1900, by our lamented Dr. Kerfoot and other Baptist . preachers. Since that time Dr. Rodriguez has been the pastor of the church and superintendent of our mission work at Sagua la Grande, where he has rendered, and is now rendering, most acceptable and efficient services without any compensation whatever from the Board.

It has recently been found necessary to make a change in the house of worship, and in dedicating the new house of worship Brother Cova of Matanzas and Brother O'Halloran of Cienfuegos were present. The following extracts from a letter received from Dr. E. F. Rodriguez will be read with

I have the pleasure to inform you of the feast of the dedication of our new chapel on the night of Wednesday last. Over 500 people attended. including the best familles of this town. Brother O'Halloran first took the platform, and after he spoke Brother Cova delivered a most beautiful sermon on these words, "What think ye of the Christ?" He commenced showing the impossibility of indifference before such a tremendous question. To be or not to be a friend of Christ was equivalent to being or not being saved. Then he addressed that question in a magnificent manner to Pliate, to the Pharisees, to the traitor Judas, and so forth, and lastly to God the Father Himself, "What thinketh ye of the Christ?" He addressed the momentous question to the martyrs, many of them belonging to our denomination. I think it was an excellent sermon and produced a very good effect. Thirty-three persons were congregated, sub-condition of being examined by me and accepted by the church as candidates for baptism on account of their calling from Jesus. The first was a venerable old gentleman, Scotch by birth, beloved and respected by everybody in this town. Blessed be the Lord!

THE RELATION OF THE HOME BOARD TO MOUNTAIN all who knew it not. In less than a month three MISSIONS AND SCHOOLS.

Rev. Wm. B. McGarrity in The Christian Index.

This relation can be better seen when we know the field and people. The mountain section included a part of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. general remark will apply to all of this section, or to all the people who live in it. The people are misrepresented because those who write are too prone to make general statements. What I write is gathered from seven years' residence in North Georgia, Eastern Kentucky and East Tennessee, and does not apply to all, any more than general statements would apply to the whole South or

The people are exceedingly religious. I have not been in a community that did not have some strong Christian families. They have been Isolated, and have had more time for Bible study and meditation. Much of the preaching has been simply recounting Bible stories. This developes character, Sometime ago I saw a brother who lived in a section that was the seat of a fued. He told me that frequently men came into his store armed with pistols. He was asked if he was not afraid a fued would break out and he be killed. "No," says he, "when I get up every morning I ask Christ to help me, to protect me, and he does it. He will take care of you if you ask him." I afterward held a Bible Institute at his church, thirty miles from the railread. He employed a singing teacher to spend ten days with the church before the Institute began; he opened the singing school every day with song and prayer; and entertained all the young people who attended from a distance.

Reilgion is very real to these people. Sometime ago one of my deacons had to take his wife to the City for a surgical operation that would possibly prove fatal. I tried to speak words of sympathy. He said "Jesus Christ has stood by me all day. It is all right." An old preacher who never received as much as \$25 for Christian work remarked as we began a meeting, "I am here to stay as long as it is possible to save a soul." This religious zeal shows itself in many ways. I will mention three.

- (1). There are a great many church organizations. One county of 25,000 people has over fifty Baptist church buildings. In some counties the proportion is much smaller. In many sections the people who live on a creek must have a church on that creek if they attend church at all. Then sometimes jealousy among preachers feads to division, and small weak organizations. However, some counties have only one or two Baptist church buildings. The people worship in school houses.
- (2). There are a great number of preachers. They are ordained, but only a small proportion do much actual work. I know of one county that has one hundred ordained Baptist preachers, and another county that has eight ordained Baptist preachers: only two of the latter have charge of churches. Sometime ago I held a Bible Institute at a country church. At the last service an appeal was made for men to give themselves to telling the Gospel to

young men were licensed to preach.

(3). Nearly every church has an annual protracted meeting. Many have a fixed time for the meeting. It would be hard to work up a revival at any other time. When the "big meetin" is held the church expects conversions and generally has them, but not at other times.

There are, however, rough, ignorant and immoral men in the mountains. There have been fueds, but the great majority deplore them, just as good people in the South deplore lynching. There are communities that scarcely ever have preaching, but proportionately few. So far as I have seen, there are few Sunday-Schools or young peoples meetings among the churches off from railroads.

The Christian graces of the people are not equally developed. The emotional side is often abnormally developed. What would, when trained, result in advancing the Kingdom, is too often spent in shouting and being happy. The idea that we are saved to serve, that we are filled that we may witness, has never taken a strong hold on the people. Hence there is very little giving to the cause of Christ. The pastors, as a general thing, preach one Saturday and Sunday morning in each month, out receive no salary. They do not expect anything and receive nothing. They sometime grow careless and the churches go for months without preaching. There is almost no pastoral visiting. The preacher cannot spend more than Saturday and Sunday with the church, as the rest of the week must be devoted to making a living. With the exception of fields developed by State Board or Home Board workers, very little is given to Missions. The Orphans Home appeals to the churches as nothing else does.

The people do love to save souls. The preachers are soul savers. But they do not develop the cor. verts. There is very little systematic Bible study, and few of the preachers have a systematic knowledge of Bible teaching. They fail to study the practical side of religion. Soul saving, caring for the sick, and disciplining the wayward about cover the work of the average mountain preacher.

In some sections the population is increasing very fast. The population of Laurel and adjoining counties, Kentucky, has increased 27 per cent. in ten years. Mining camps of 200 to 1,000 are springing up on all sides. They generally care little for religious work, and so far very little has been done for them.

How can the needs of this field be met? Only by the combined efforts of the Home and various State Boards. The States have other pressing and equally needy fields, and cannot, unaided, give the mountains the attention they deserve. But what lines of work ought to be presented? As the present conditions come from a hundred or more years living, it is easily seen that no spasmodic work will accomplish much. It will do little good to send out evangelists to hold "big meetins," or to send out men or women to visit the people, and have outings among them in the summer. Whatever is done must come from patient, consecrated labor. I suggest three lines of work.

[To be continued in next issue.]



PUBLISHED ONCE A MONTH BY THE HOME MISSION BOARD

OF THE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,

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GOD'S LEADERSHIP.

Deprived of its Secretary by the inscrutable providence of God the Home Mission , Board is brought to throw itself on the arm of God. We are looking to Him and awaiting from Him direction and guidance in the choice of a human leader. While we wait before Him we are reminded, as perhaps unlikely under other circumstances, that He after all is the great Leader. His work is dear to Him and it will not, if we use the means He has put in our power, suffer loss. Do we sometimes seek to do work, which we call His work without reckoning with Him in it? Surely we fail if we do. Surveying the past it is easy to see that where men have been at human wits end in the Lord's word, there has the glory of God been made manifest and there have come the best results and the most signal achievements. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity."

MISSIONARY DREAMS.

How often do men confound faith with impracticability. Of a man with the open vision we say "He is a dreamer. He is not practical." The spirit of Rationalism-has little friendship for the spirit of Missions. Who goes in to serve God must walk by faith, not by sight.

What a splendid dreamer is the infesion-.ary. He faces facts, he fronts conditions however hard and his eye transforms them. He has two departments is mind; one for the world as it is; the other for the world as it will be. One, for the Heathen as he finds him, and the other for him as he will leave him. Business men, hard headed, practical men are necessary on our Mission Boards, but alas if it does not also have Christian Dreamers. Caution, Conservatism and an eye to income are very essential, the most distinguished preachers in the

just as brakes on a train, but alas if there is not an impatient, throbbing engine with faith in the track at the head. If the history of all mission work in the South could be written it would be full of dreams and dreamers who went ahead, believing in God, sometimes contrary to the advice of the prudent. Faith, hope and love are aspiring graces.

"Dreams are but the light of fairer skles, Too dazzling for our mortal eyes.
And when we see their flashing beams
We turn aside and call them greams. Ah! trust me. Every thought that yet In sadness rose or sorrow set
That time to repining glory nurst
Was called an idle dream at first.

A GREAT MISTAKE.

In some quarters the idea has gone out that there is lack of cordiality and co-operation between the Foreign Mission Board, the Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board. We desire to disclaim knowledge of any such state of affairs and to lament that such an impression has been made. The Home Mission Board is not an individual: our other Boards are not individuals. If differences could arise between the Boards, they would have to be over policies and a conflict of interests. There are no such conflicts with the Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our fields are distinct, our policies are made with regard to the interests of each other. The Home Board, as its recent Secretary has often said, has nothing to gain by decrying Foreign Missions or the Sunday School work, and we are heart and soul devoted to the progress of both. We haven't a doubt but that the other Boards feel the same way about Home Missions.

THE DAYS THAT TRIED MEN'S SOULS.

It has been said that in the closing months of the war a crow, in flying from Alexandria to Danville, would have found it necessary to take his rations with him. First an army and then another had swept over the old State, until stores of almost every description were exhausted. When the end came, there was scarcely a Baptist church from Richmond to Alexandria, or from Richmond to Hampton, which had not been either totally demolished or severely injured; and other Sections of the State were almost as great sufferers in this respect -A. E. D. in Religious Herald.

This picture drawn by the venerable and Senior Editor of the Herald presents the condition of Virginia Baptists in their appeal to the Home Mission Board in August of 1865. The Board, Although crippled and overwhelmed with the work before it, was prompt to respond to Virginia's appeal. Of the 53 Missionaries employed by the Board during that year, 12 of them were located in Virginia, while aid was given to others. During the following year the Board employed an aggregate of 124 missionaries and evangelists for a part or whole of the vear. Of this number 27 were located in Virginia. Included in this list were some of

State, and the help of the Home Board thus reached most of the important points which have since become Baptist strongholds. As Virginia was helped and strengthened in her time of great need, so now other States are calling to the Home Board for aid.

MISSIONARY DAY-SEPTEMBER 29TH.

This day is chosen because it is Review Sunday. and will not interrupt the regular lesson. Closing the summer term and opening the season of work for the fall and winter, it offers fine opportunity for a campaign raily. The Sunday School Board has published an excellent order of Exercises, consisting of the program proper, the supplement containing songs, recitations, etc., and mite boxes, all of which is furnished without cost upon request, stating how many are needed.

The money gathered in the collection on that day should be sent to the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn. We send it to the Home and Foreign Boards, but if it does not come to us we can of course take no account of it in our report to the Convention. Be sure therefore to send it to us.

These exercises carry missions into the Sunday School in a way to do great good. They are powerful, not simply in the way of collecting money, but as educating in missions and laying the basis for missionary life and activities. We have some striking illustrations of this wonderful power. It is the seed time to be followed by glorious harvests.

Our Children's Bible Day in June was very successful. Money is still coming in for the Bible Fund, and all through the year the schools will be sending contributions for the distribution of the Word of God. We hold these two services-Missionary Day in September for missions, and Children's Bible Day in June specially for sending out the Word of God.

We have just closed the first quarter in the Conentlon year-the best quarter in the Board's history. The receipts far surpassed the receipts for the period last year, and one-fourth of the advance was in the Bible Day receipts. This is very gratifying. How wonderfully God has blessed this work! How gloriously the people are taking In Into their hearts and putting it out into their lives! God has it in mind for the Baptists of the South to do great things for Him in this department of their work. J. M. FROST.

THE BETTER WAY.

Who serves his country best? Not he who, for a brief and stormy space, Leads forth her armies to the fierce affray. Short is the time of turmoll and unrest, Long years of peace succeed it and replace; There is a better way.

Who serves his country best? Not he who guides her senates in debate, And makes the laws which are her prop and stay;
Not he who wears the poet's purple vest,
And sings her songs of love and grief and fate;
There is a better way.

He serves his country best Who joins the tide that lifts her nobly on; For speech has myriad tongues for every day, And song but one; and law within the breast is stronger than the graven law on stone; There is a better way.

He serves his country best Who lives pure life, and doth righteous deed, And walks straight paths, however others stray, And leaves his sons as uttermost bequest A stainless record which all men may read; This is the better way.

No drop but serves the slowly lifting tide, No dew but has an errand to some flower No smallest star but sheds some helpful ray, And man by man, each giving to all the rest, Makes the firm bulwark of the country's power; There is no batter way.

-Susan Coolidge.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

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MISS ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG, EDITOR.

A LIFE.

One small life in God's great plan!

How futile it seems as the ages roll,

Do what it may, or strive how it can,

To alter the sweep of the infinite whole!

A single stitch in an endless web,

A'drop in the ocean's flow and ebb!

But the pattern is rent where the stitch is lost,

Or marred where the tangled threads have crossed;

And each life that fails of its true intent

Mars the perfect plan that the Master meant.

-SUSAN COOLIDGE.

MONTHLY MISSIONARY TOPIC-BRIEFLETS.

For the year 1900 1901, receipts of the Home Mission Board in cash \$91,075.11, as against the sum of \$79,366.68 received the previous year.

Love always finds its true expression in giving. A miserly Christian is an anomaly and of such an one the apostle John well asks how dwelleth the love of God in him.

Abbreviated Summary of Work of Home Mission Board: 811 missionaries; churches and stations, 2,660; baptisms, 6,671; churches constituted, 162; houses of worship built, 100; Sunday Schools organized, 511.

"We should count time by heart-throbs; he most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

By far the larger number of all the States in the Southern Baptist Convention are feeling the need of help from the Home Board and calling upon it for assistance. Last year the Home Board appropriated for co-operative work \$54,922.28.

"Let all the ends thou almest at be thy country's, thy God's, and truth's.

The great city of New Orleans, Louisiana, with Its 275,000 inhabitants, has only one self supporting white Baptist church.

Tennessee contains the city of Memphis which has nearly doubled its population during the past ten years without the increase of single new Baptist church. The city has only two self-supporting white Baptist churches.

Those not acquainted with Texas can not appreciate the real situation. They hear of the great things Texas is doing, of the large amounts raised and the great gatherings of Baptists, but many fall to realize that Texas comprises a territory about equal to one-fourth of that covered by the Southern Baptist Convention, and that almost one-third of the State is yet frontier.

Love like warmth should beam forth on every side and bend to every necessity of our brethren.

Chapels are greatly needed in Cuba for the promotion of our work. Two women missionaries, supported by contributions from their own States —Florida and Missouri—have been appointed. Rev. C. D. Daniel, who speaks both English and Spanish, has also been secured for work in Cuba.

A great opening for good exists in connection with the Church Building Loan Fund. Applications for assistance have been coming in.

Woman's Missionary Union contributed in cash to the Home Board last year \$20,549. Boxed happiness in the way of clothing and house-hold articles—valuation \$26,887—sent into the homes of missionaries, was most appreclatively received.

"The glory is not in the task, But in the doing of it for God."

OUR OPPORTUNITY.

We are standing to-day at the crisis of all the ages, and when we plead for the Gospel for our own land, for those that live in the secluded valleys of our mountains, for those that bulld their frontler cabins on the borders of our wide prairie, for those that crowd the factories and workshops of our great citles, for the boys that play along our streets and for the girls that look out of our windows-when we ask for that which shall cleanse from their pollution the slums of our cities, that shall drive ignerance and vice from homes, and which shall lift this land of ours in its entirety into the light and glory and blessing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what do we ask for but that which must be the mightlest factor in the enthronement of Christ over the nations. Such are the conditions that environ us to-day. Surely, this is not a time to be afraid lest we spend too much money in trying to make our own land what it ought to be for God and for the world that liveth in sin.

Our hearts, like that of Eli of old, tremble under these solemn thoughts, and our souls are awed by the majesty of great events about us. It is the day of opportunity. Shall we meet it.—Extract from Annual Report of Home Mission Board.

BIBLE LIGHT ON MISSION PATHS.

AS CHRISTIAN WORKERS, WHAT DOTH GOD RE-OUIRE OF US?

Prov. 23:26; Rom. 12:1, 2; Luke 9:23; Col. 3:23; II Thess. 3:13; Phil. 4:6; Mal. 3:10; Matt. 10:8; Matt. 5:16; Acts 1:8.

"Neglected opportunities are aggravated sins." It is the sins of omission that are among the most heinous in our Lord's sight. It was to those who had failed to avail themselves of the opportunity of Christian service to whom the king, in the last judgment said, "Depart from me, ye cursed."

FEED MY LAMBS.

Many, many years have passed since our Lord and Saviour took the children in His arms and blessed them, yet the kindly action from the One altogether lovely, is still exerting an influence, bidding us keep in close touch with the little ones. The two commands "Suffer the children to come unto Me," and "Feed my lambs" reveal His tender care for the buds of humanity, suggest the possibilities of child development, and emphasize responsibility for training them into a knowledge of and interest in the great work of missions.

In various stations of S. B. C. territory, Young Peopla's Missionary Societies have been organized, and even tiny tots whose dimpled fingers must be guided by Mamma's hand in making their penny offerings have been enrolled as members of the Babies' Branch, Woman's Missionary Union. Results have been very gratifying. There are no brighter promises for the future than our well organized, earnest, faithful young people's societies, under the leadership of those who feel themselves commissioned to "Feed my lambs." Yet, it is appreciated that there are thousands and thousands of our children and young people who are not con-

nected with any Mission Band. For their sakes, for the prosperity of our work in the future, above all in the spirit of Christ's commands, we appeal to the women of our South-land, members of churches that are without Young People's Organizations:—Will you not give your aid in the formation of a Band and in making its work successful?

The commission given to Peter by our risen Lord, as a proof of accepted repentance and love, was repeated three times. The form was varied, each being expressive of development in the manner of serving and of different classes to be ministered unto. In this also, is there not a lesson for us? Let us not fall to recognize that because if the different stages of child life, it is essential for the attainment of the highest success, to so plan our work that each class in due season may be fed by the portion of meat needed. The following extract from Recommendations of the Executive Committee, Woman's Missionary Union, adopted at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, is suggestive of how this may be done:

"The establishment of a graded system of Banda is heartily recommended, as follows: (1) Babies' Branch; (2) Sunbeam Bands of Boys and Girls; (3) Young Ladies' Societies."

In conclusion, do the many obstacles in the way of training and developing our young people force themselves upon your minds? For the encouragement of those in the different States, we would bring to your remembrance the many promises of our Father in Heaven to give wisdom and understanding. We would also strengthen your hearts through the assurance that Central Committee officers and Band Superintendents of your State are ever ready to extend any ald in their power.

MISSIONARY DAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

"I have set before thee an open door." In view of the fact that the time is again drawing near for the annual observance of Missionary Day, we believe this is the message of our Heavenly Father to the Baptist women of our South-land. Many doors have been opened to us in recent years. None are more important or of more far reaching consequence than this door, old as motherhood,—the training of young hearts for the service of Christ, and Missionary Day affords a special opportunity for impressing the truth that the children are a part of God's great plan for the redemption of the world.

A Program has been prepared for Missionary Day, Sunday, September 29th. This and other necessary literature may be obtained (free) by making application to the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. The offerings of the day are to be sent to the Sunday School Board and will be equally divided between Home and Foreign Missions.

As in previous years, Missionary Day is emphasized in Recommendations to Woman's Missionary Union from the Boards, which were adopted at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. For this reason, also because we know the service will be acceptable to the Great Teacher who gave to children a place in the new dispensation, the appeal is now made: Will you use your influence with your pastor and Sunday School Superintendent in having the Day observed lo your Sunday School? Will you also be ready and willing to extend any help'IN your power toward the successful carrying out of the Program? How encouraging, how stimulating the thought that hearts onlisted in Christ's work in the Sunday School, tended lovingly in our young people's Bands, will in the great majority of cases, bring into our adult organizations those whose alabaster boxes of precious perfume will gladly be broken at the Master's feet, and their fragrance will reach to the uttermost parts of the earth !

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Receipts of the Home Mission Board, From July 15th to August 15th, 1901.

From July 15th to August 15th, 1901.

Alabana: Cash, Sibam Church for Jacksonville, Fla., ch. \$25; Adama St. B. S. S. Monagomery, \$10.86; W. M. U. and B. ch., Selma \$2.30; W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec., for Jacksonville, Fla., ch. \$25; ox. W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec., \$20. T. Total, \$15,05. Previously reported, cash, \$258. L. Total since May, cash, \$68. to.

ARKANSAS: Cash, Brown's Chapel ch. \$1.25; Total, \$1.25. Previously reported, cash, \$13,66. Previously reported, cash, \$13,60. Previously reported, cash, \$20,80. Total since May, cash, \$15,53. Total, \$25,13. Previously reported, cash, \$20,80. Total since May, cash, \$25,08. NIDIAN TERRITORY: Cash, Kev I. M. W. Kohoma, \$1. Total since May, cash, \$25,08. INDIAN TERRITORY: Cash, Kev I. M. W. Kohoma, \$1. Total since May, cash, \$25,08. INDIAN TERRITORY: Cash, Kev I. M. W. Kohoma, \$1. Total since May, cash, \$25,08. INDIAN TERRITORY: Cash, Kev I. M. W. Kohoma, \$1. Total since May, cash, \$25,09. INDIAN TERRITORY: Cash, Kev I. M. W. Kohoma, \$1. Total since May, cash, \$25,09. INDIAN TERRITORY: Cash, Kev I. M. W. Kohoma, \$1. Total since May, cash, \$25,09. Total since May, cash, \$25,09. Previously reported, cash, \$25,00. R. A. R., Rayou Barbary, so cents. Norseod B. Ch. for Jacksonville, \$2,00. R. A. R., Rayou Barbary, so cents. Norseod B. Ch. for Jacksonville, \$2,00. R. A. R., Rayou Barbary, so cents. Norseod B. Ch. for Jacksonville, \$2,00. R. A. R., Rayou Barbary, so cents. Norseod B. Ch. for Jacksonville, \$2,00. R. A. R., Rayou Barbary, so cents. Norseod B. Ch. Fault, \$20. S. Previously reported, cash, \$25,00. Total since May, cash, \$25,10. R. A. R., R., R. R.,

les 56.
AGGREGATE: Cash. \$1,930-43. Previously reported, cash, currected, \$5,613.86
Total since May, cash, \$7,543.39.

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