

OUR HOME FIELD

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CUBA AND MISSION WORK.

Adapted from a tract recently written by Rev. C. D. Daniel, General Missionary of the Home Board in Cuba.

Cuba is the largest, richest and most populous Island in the Antillian Archipelago. It is 730 miles long, 100 miles at its widest point, and 25 miles at its narrowest, an average width of 30 miles. It has an area of 45,000 square miles. Cuba possesses a greater number of splendid harbors than any other country of its size in the world.

People:—According to the census taken by the American government in 1899, the population was, 1,572,797; whites, 910,298; blacks, 234,638; mulattoes, 270,805; Chinese, 14,857 other foreigners, 142,218.

The Cubans are the most noble of all tropical peoples. They are intelligent, active, persevering, grateful, docile, fraternal, forgiving, and moral, and withal most ardent lovers of liberty. They dreamed of liberty, talked of liberty, worked for liberty, fought for liberty and obtained liberty. Not all the silver and gold and swords and cannons of old Spain could subdue them. But when they obtained their liberty, they laid down their swords and their guns and now live in harmony with their former oppressors. The only antipathy to foreigners in the heart of any Cuban has been put there by the jealous and vicious Catholic priests, certain designing Protestant preachers, and cheap politicians, three classes of "birds of a feather that flock together." From personal experience I can say that Cubans are very hospitable to Americans, as indeed they should be, for Americans have done much for them in aiding them to obtain their liberty.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM:—The Romish Church ruled Cuba, religiously for 400 years, blighting and blasting her prospects, physically, financially, socially, politically, intellectually, morally and spiritually. The priesthood was generally ignorant, sensual and vicious, caring nothing for the Cubans, except to grind their money out of them, making exorbitant charges for baptisms, marriages and burials. The Roman Catholic Church priesthood have had full sway in Cuba for 400 years, and have had it the very best opportunity to show to the world what they can do for a people. They have been untrammelled by Bibles or Bible Christianity.

The Romish Church paid no attention to the education of the masses, and as Church and State were united, 80 per cent. of the population was illiterate. Because of this condition, some have supposed that Cubans care nothing for intellectual culture, but this, too, is a great mistake. No people love learning more devotedly and none are more susceptible to intellectual development than they. Cuban illiteracy is the natural offspring of the Roman Catholic Church. That Church was never known to educate the masses except when brought in contact with Bible Christianity.

During Cuba's long desperate struggle for liberty, the Roman Catholic Church took, as it always does, the part of the strong against the weak, of the oppressor against the oppressed. As a natural

result Cubans have become alienated from the Church of Rome. Indeed they come as near having no fixed religious convictions as any people in the world. They are not atheists but non-religious and Catholics simply in name. There exists the most complete religious indifference throughout the Island, produced by the Romish Church.

PROTESTANTISM:—Because of the proximity of Cuba to the United States, and because of Spanish oppression, many Cubans visited the Land of Liberty and Bibles. Some were converted and returned and did some good work. Some missionaries more than 30 years ago en voyage to their fields of labor touched at Cuban ports, and distributed many Bibles, some of which escaped priestly hands, and are yet to be seen in Cuban homes.

BAPTISTS:—By an Amicable arrangement the Home Mission Society of New York has undertaken the Evangelization of the two Eastern Provinces, and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the four Western.

Our Home Mission Board began work in Cuba about 20 years ago, its first mission being in the City of Havana.

Calvary Baptist Church of Havana which workshops in the Jané Building, was organized Jan. 24 1902, and stands for a pure life, as well as sound doctrine. God has greatly blessed the Church, adding to the membership 85 members, mostly by baptism, only 23 by letter and statement. There are many evidences that the Church will soon grow into a strong self-supporting Church.

She has for some months supported two mission stations without any cost to the Board in rents. Something new for Mission work in Havana.

The Home Mission Board owns property in Havana worth about \$100,000.00 including the Jané Building, the Cemetery, and Buenos Aires property. The effort to seize the Board's property has failed, thus demonstrating that Cuban law is just, and that our brethren may have no fear to invest in mission property in the future, as it is as safe here as in the United States. The threat to keep the property in litigation 20 years has also failed.

The Board is supporting work in: Havana, Guanabacoa, Matanzas, Pinar del Rio, Colon, Cienfuegos, Ronchuelo, Santa Clara, and Sagua le Grande. At each of these places the work is being greatly blessed, and prospects are as bright as are the promises of God.

Preachers supported by the Board: C. D. Daniel and P. J. Franqui, Havana; J. V. Cova, Matanzas; M. M. Calejo, Guanabacoa; G. Cardinas, Pinar del Rio; E. V. Carbonell, Colon; J. R. O'Halloran, Cienfuegos; A. U. Cabrera, Santa Clara; E. Y. Barredo, Sagua le Grande; Bro. O'Halloran also preaches to the church at Ronchuelo. Bro. T. W. C. Neely is in Havana studying the language. The Board pays small salaries to seven native teachers, who are doing valuable work among the children at the following places: Pina del Rio, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara and Sagua le Grande. All our working force is in the most perfect harmony, and faithfully working together for the evangelization of the Island. They are clean men, and will consent that no other kind find lodgment among us. They will compare favorably with the ministry on any other Mission field anywhere.

Things that our work needs:

I. Means to open 20 new missions with present working force.

II. The appointment of at least five consecrated men to occupy other important points at once.

III. The establishing of a high grade college in Havana, for the education of our youth, and others who may come to us. A college will add strength and influence to Baptist work in the Island. If properly equipped it will become self-supporting in a short time, as has the Methodist College in this City.

IV. Putting good schools in each of our most important fields. It will cost but little and pay largely. They will become self-supporting in a very short time if properly conducted.

V. A denominational paper is badly needed. We must have financial aid to start it, but it will become self-supporting in a short time.

VI. An orphan home should be inaugurated by some one whom God may fit and qualify for such an important work.

In conclusion I will say: What we do, we must do soon, for Rome is rapidly reorganizing, and will soon be mistress of the situation, it will then be too late for us to do our best work.

EXTRACT FROM LETTERS.

The following interesting paragraphs are taken from personal letters written by Bro. Daniel at Havana recently:

Oct. 22nd: We had a very fine meeting last night at our Mission on Romay St., a splendid congregation and very deep interest. My text was, Jno. 3: 16. I said: 1. The Author of our salvation is not the Pope, priests, preachers, church, ordinances, nor works, but God. 2. He saves us not because of any worth or merit that He saw in us, but because He loved us. 3. The extensivity and intensity of His love. He loved the world, He gave His Son. 4. To save those who exercise repentance and faith. 5. The saved have life Eternal, the moment they trust. Conclusion: The saved love God and keep His Commandments, and are happy in life, in death, in Eternity.

It was a very simple Gospel talk, but the Lord blessed it. At the close of the service an old Grand-mother joined the Church, whose granddaughter is a candidate awaiting baptism. I asked the old lady to relate her Christian experience to the congregation. She talked some ten minutes; my, my, what burning words! I have seldom heard such a talk from a young convert. Every one present was melted to tears as the old saint gave a brief relation of her past life, her trust in the Saviour and consequent happiness. She was well off before the war, but lost it all; husband and two sons killed in battle, she had no comfort till she found the Saviour. She will be baptized next Sunday, together with her grand-daughter. I wish some of our wealthy brethren or sisters would let us have the means with which to keep this old saint in Havana, as Bible woman. I would like to have her go from house to house, from home to home with Bibles and tracts, and simple relate her experience of grace, and invite the people to Church.

Oct. 27: Dear Bro:—Had fine service at Jané last night. Good congregation; order perfect. Interest apparently deep, lighted house with candles. (Dr. Diaz had removed the gas fixtures from the building—Ed.) Bro. Franqui went, at urgent request, to Cabanas to preach Sunday, leaving me with all the work; four Sunday Schools to conduct, and two preaching services. If you don't think it was a busy day, try it once. But my health is good and I never tire, especially when I see the Hand of the Lord leading.

Nov. 9th: We are having good congregation at the Jané Sunday nights. Last night I baptized two believers one a young man and the other a lady 74 years old. A young man joined for baptism, and three will be baptised next Sunday.

Nov. 14.—I have decided to have our protracted meeting commence to-morrow, and have invited Rev. J. V. Cova to come and do preaching for us. I believe the present time the best for the meeting. I do hope and pray that we may have a great revival of religion that will shake this old City from center to circumference.

Nov. 19: We are in the midst of a great meeting. Bro. Cova with us. Four joined last night. Pray for us.

OUR HOME FIELD.

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HOME MISSION BOARD

—OF THE—

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THE TENNESSEE CONVENTION.

It was in the beautiful city of Murfreesboro that the Tennessee Baptists held their recent and in some respects greatest Convention. Dr. A. U. Boone was honored with the Presidency and Dr. Martin Ball was made Recording Secretary. Though Dr. W. C. Golden has been Corresponding Secretary less than a year and had been sick much of the time, he made a fine report of work done. The spirit of the Convention from opening to close was that of progress. All lines of work received due attention, enlarged plans were adopted for the future and everybody was full of hope. The Secretary of the Home Board was given the heartiest welcome and our work was accorded the best hour of the Convention. Tennessee will make great advance this year for Home Missions. We are giving the State substantial help and they are for reciprocity.

There has been a steady upward trend in Baptist affairs in Tennessee for years. The natural divisions of their territory are so distinct that it has been almost like three States, East, Middle and West Tennessee. They are coming together. The quiet, persistent, constructive work of their accomplished Editor, Dr. E. E. Flok, has told wonderfully on their progress. He, more than any other man, has brought about the unparalleled progress of the volunteer state in Temperance reform. Then a good company of cultured, consecrated pastors have lifted our cause into respectability and growing power. From Bristol to Memphis there is a feeling of hopefulness and plans are laid for larger things by our Baptist people.

THE TEXAS CONVENTION.

A long cherished desire to see the wonder of wonders among Baptist Conventions was gratified when the Secretary beheld the assembled hosts at Dallas. Texas is one to itself in bigness and greatness. They are marvelous. Just think of \$75,000 for State Missions alone and no other work neglected! Their great correlated system of schools has no parallel in Baptist history. Their orphanage is a wonderful institution. They

are soon to have a great sanitarium in connection with which is to be a Pasteur Institute. Their plans for the development of Texas are bewildering to the imagination. The "strenuous life" is on in the Lone Star State and the Baptists are in the lead. They have men of large mould. The Carrolls (B. H. is titanic), Grimbrell, Truett and just scores of others are making the very heavens glad by the splendor of their achievements. The Secretary's welcome was of the true Texas type. The Home Board is imbedded in their hearts.

The report on Home Missions was read by Dr. B. H. Carroll and is so good, though brief, that we secured a copy and print it elsewhere in Our Home Field. They joyfully and unanimously agreed to raise \$25,000 for Home Missions this year.

No mention of the Convention would be complete without mention of the noble R. C. Ruckner who was made President and whose tact and ability made everything go like oiled machinery. The Recording Secretaries, E. A. Baten and F. M. McConnell, kept things up to tight tension.

The farewell was given to the Texans with the feeling that they are unique, great, growing greater and destined in five years to be well nigh out of sight ahead of us all in every line of Baptist achievement. May the Lord of Hosts lead them.

THE ARKANSAS CONVENTION.

The contrast was great between Texas and Arkansas. In the former everything was vigor and hopefulness, in the latter, anxiety and forebodings of evil. But the Lord led the Arkansas saints into a large place. Prayer and wise counsel lifted them from the mists and murkiness of the valley to the sunlit mountain tops. Eagle, Love, Barton, Atkinson, O'Kelly and others were in great anxiety as to what to do regarding the much talked of "peace proposals."

Seeing there were fundamental differences as to denominational polity and methods of work between them and the General Association and consequently that there could be no real unity and harmony, and so no abiding peace, the Convention declined to change their plans of work and decided to swing out into the larger life of denominational progress.

Secretary Love made a superb report. He had been at work only nine months, but far the best report ever known in the State was presented. Every obligation was met and a small balance on hand. They had raised over \$2,000 more for State Missions than ever before and more than \$1,000 each for Home and Foreign Missions beyond any previous year. This under all the circumstances, with the relentless war waged by the opponents of the organized work on the men and methods of the Convention, is most encouraging and gratifying. The Arkansas Convention are not through with their troubles, but they are no longer in doubt as to their policy. They are done with temporizing, their faces are set towards the future and they are rising to greater things.

Dr. P. C. McConnell was present and aided greatly by his presence, speeches and sermon. They love him in Arkansas and he loves them. Of course Gov. Eagle was elected President of the Convention, and how well he did preside. The Secretary was the guest of the State Secretary, J. F. Love, and his very accomplished and lovely wife who occupy the charming old home of Gov. J. P. Eagle. The Governor boards

with them. It was in this home that Mrs. Eagle, a short while since taken to Heaven, presided with queenly grace and unwonted brilliancy. Evidences of her taste and culture are found in all the spacious mansion. Our beloved Brother Eagle is humbly submissive to the will of God in the loss of his gifted companion, and seems anxious to make good his loss by extra service to the Master whom she served so well.

The Home Board has no better friends than the brethren of the Arkansas Convention. They are to undertake \$6,000 for us this year. The material resources of the State are incalculably great. The tide of immigration has set in that direction. It is a vast mission field and now is our opportunity. Our Board is giving them \$5,000 this year. It is a wise and timely investment for the Lord. The future has great things for Arkansas Baptists. They have our sympathy and prayers.

DEATH OF REV. L. L. SMITH.

Just as we go to press the sad news comes that Rev. L. L. Smith of Oklahoma City died November 23rd. He was Secretary of Missions of the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention and was greatly revered for his strength and beauty of character and for his special fitness for the position he so well and ably filled. For two months his life had been in the balance, and many prayers had been offered for his recovery. No man in all the Territory had a greater influence or was more in the hearts of the brotherhood than Brother Smith. He was in the zenith of his splendid powers and doing a great work. It will be difficult to fill his place. In the great loss we have sustained, let us submit to the will of God and pray for another of like gifts to take up the work laid down by this noble servant, and may grace and mercy abide with the bereaved family.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Unanimously adopted by the Baptist State Convention of Texas.

The elaborate annual reports of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, with their other publications, prelude the necessity of entering into details here concerning this great department of our co-operative work. But some things relative to that work need to be emphasized here and now.

First of all, Texas as the long-standing beneficiary of this Board lies under a debt of gratitude and love that obligates us to unstinted co-operation in its work, and to the staunchest friendship in its every hour of trial. We do therefore hail with unfeigned pleasure the complete vindication of the Board's management of Cuban affairs as set forth in recent statement and which puts to open shame on the cruel and adverse criticism of its course.

And we hereby pledge this convention to the heroic endeavor of meeting the Board's request that we raise in Texas for Home Missions \$25,000.00 in this year's work. We can do this if we address ourselves to it faithfully and systematically.

We desire also to put ourselves on record as recognizing the ever increasing necessity for keeping up this department of our work according to the developments of national expansion and growth. In our judgment the necessity for a Home Mission Department in Southern Baptist Convention Work is tenfold greater now than when the Board was first created, with every prospect for still greater necessity as the years roll on. And while the mission spirit is one in aim and the field is in the world, yet our Lord himself, established the relative departments of this work—Home and Foreign,—and provided for it in assigning his apostles to their respective fields of labor.

B. H. CARROLL.
Cnm'n. for the Committee.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Auxiliary to S. B. C.

233 North Howard Street, BALTIMORE, MD.

Motto: GO FORWARD.

MISS ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG, Editor.

"BREAD FOR THE HUNGRY."

There comes a knock, they stand at our door;
They call and knock, and their need is sore—
They call for succor, to us they cry—
They hunger and thirst—shall we let them die?
There are souls that are starving for bread of life;
There are hearts with anger and malice rife,
There are weary and stricken and desolate ones,
With no Father in God—no hope in His son.
Christian women and girls, by Jesus made free,
To us is given—to you and to me—
To give of our treasures—not counting our store,
For in giving we're getting and gathering more,
Give pity and love—the love of the Cross;
Give money and labor, not counting its loss;

Give prayer evermore that the needy may be
Most bountifully fed, dear Saviour, by Thee—
By Thee and through me

GOD'S GIFT, HIS REQUIREMENT.

Daniel Webster, some years before his death, made an extensive tour to the extreme West of the United States, and on his return, expressed in four words his impression of the country's peril; "Abundance, Luxury, Decline, Desolation." A sagacious seer and prophet was this, our American Burke. He saw that this boasted abundance and luxury were the summit of a hill beyond which the descent was awfully rapid and dangerous. Numerical strength may be weakness, and wealth, impoverishment. What saved the church of the seventeenth and the first half of the eighteenth century from the apostasy that threatened, was the birth hour of missions which gave the church a new remedy for its ills. And the only thing that can save the church of the nineteenth century from another apostasy, will be a new consecration to the work of the world's evangelization, proportioned to our new measure of knowledge and opportunity. What would have been faithfulness in Carey's day is neglect now; what would have been zeal then is indifference now. As the world opens to us; as our members and resources multiply; as our knowledge of human need increases; as our facilities are infinitely enlarged, so our readiness, promptness, fullness of devotion, must keep pace. Therefore, of this age to which so much more is given, God will require the more.

A. T. PIERSON.

AN APPEAL.

Kings of old softly laid their treasures before the infant Saviour. The poor widow, with sublime trust, cast all her living into the treasury. Martyrs have gladly given their hearts' blood, and missionaries are enduring varied trials in advancing the cause of their risen Lord. Sometimes Christians in the home land fail to embrace opportunities for service and full conscience to sleep by the thought that the Master knows if He were here in want and woe they, too, would give Him all. But is this not a most seasonable time for heeding the divine voice which calls from heavenly heights:

"Enclose thine eyes and see,
Gifts to the least of these I love,
Thou givest unto Me!"

In the name of the Master, "whose we are and whom we serve", Woman's Missionary Union pleads for a Christmas offering for China, from the Baptists throughout the south land. How appropriate is such an expression of gratitude for God's goodness and of devotion to the Saviour! Remem-

ber the millions who are waiting, longing for tidings of the unspeakable gift—a Saviour, Christ, the Lord. Shall we, then, bring the refuse or the surplus of our store? Rather, let the Christmas offering of each be the outcome of a loving heart: which seeks to present that which is pleasing in His sight.

ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG,

Corresponding Secretary W. M. U.

N. B.—Christmas literature, including helpful programs and attractive envelopes, supplied without cost on application to Central Committees in the various States, or to Woman's Missionary Union, 233 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Md.

SOUTHERN FACTORIES.

Twenty years ago there were only 667,000 spindles at work in all the Cotton States; to day the manufacturing records concede us 7,000,000 spindles in actual operation and another 4,500,000 planned for. The looms have more than kept pace with the spindles. All this means that the textile operatives of the South have grown to a great and rapidly increasing army.

Whence comes this great aggregate of workers that has grown in a score of years from a scant 20,000, all told; to a quarter of a million beings, representing four times that number depending upon the fruits of their labors—a host that swells in size daily as this wide-reaching industry opens up more and more in various directions where natural fitness points the way?

The operatives in the new Southern factories, which means nine-tenths of the factories in the South, all are white, and they have come from the tenant farm, from the cotton field, the hillside corn patch and the mountain hut. A strictly agricultural or pastoral people, by the practice and traditions of many generations, they have been suddenly converted into a manufacturing population. Native to our soil as truly as were their grandsires before them, unmodified by any foreign element, or even by a single urban or communistic instinct, with the rustic virtues of America strong upon them as the rustic virtues of America, and knowing nothing of community life, here they are, untrained and untutored, alien to their present occupation, yet strenuously adapting themselves to its demands and laboriously acquiring the skill requisite to success in their new pursuit. For the present they are still a rural people in traits and tendencies. They have not been strengthened by resisting the evil of cities or weakened by yielding to it. When another decade has passed no one must expect the same thing to be true. There will be a better status or there will be a worse—never the same. Every portent points to the former, for the dullest man can read the signs of an awakening to the rights of these people; their right to better wages, to better homes, to full educational and religious privileges.

THE FORUM.

INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION.

Official reports of immigration at the port of New York show an enormous increase of European immigration over that of previous years. On one day early in April, over twelve thousand entered this port—a number almost unprecedented. Official reports of recent arrivals show that 26.1 per cent. were Southern Italians, and 11.5 per cent. were Hebrews. Of all the immigrants 27,550 could neither read nor write, half of these being Southern Italians. The arrivals in March are more numerous than in any previous March, and the indications are on account of the unsettled state of things in Eastern Europe and the famine in Northern Europe there will be an unprecedented influx, not only from these quarters but also from Southern Europe, during the present year. How lamentably inadequate are our efforts for the evangelization of these incoming multitudes!

Selected.

"America is but another name for opportunity." In this brief sentence Ralph Waldo Emerson summed up the history of our past and looked forward to our future. Each year proves anew the truth of the saying, as it brings to view fresh opportunities for personal and national development and achievement.

To-day, our nation stands face to face with a world-wide opportunity. The nations of the earth are new represented in our population.

SUCCESSFUL BOX PACKING.

It is with a heart of gratitude I announce to the Woman's Mission Societies of the joyous, as well as successful day, we have just had at Crystal Springs, Miss. The Societies and women workers of the churches of this Cophia Association, meet annually to pack a box, the contents of which is given by them; for some of our Frontier Missionaries. For several years past they have met with the ladies of Crystal Springs church. It has been a joy to us to have them meet with us again.

All arrangements had been made for the packing before any messengers arrived, a committee met the trains and helped them bear their donations to the church where the box was to be packed. A bountiful spread had been made ready by our ladies and at least one hundred ladies and gentlemen dined with us. After dinner, we had songs, and prayers were made by the pastors who came to help and encourage us, then the packing begun. There are seventeen churches in this association and of this number fourteen were represented with splendid contributions, and be it said of the three that did not report it was not wholly their fault. But not having services but once a month the matter was not properly laid before them and so we are hoping next year to have something from all of them. It is a glory to the cause of Christ, the sweet harmony and hearty co-operation between the churches of this association. Our day was the day when the blessedness of giving was sweet, and the spirit of missionary endeavor was glorious. That you may know how all gave I herewith attach the value of the contribution of each.

County Line \$10.00, Bethel \$10.00, Crystal Springs \$52.55, Crystal Springs Sunbeam \$3.50, Damascus \$14.85, Gallman \$19.85, Hopewell \$20.00, Hazelhurst \$50.00, New Zion \$10.50, Pilgrim's Rest \$1.00, Strong Hope \$5.60, Sylvaena \$5.75, Spring Hill \$5.00, Smyrna \$7.50, Wesson \$32.10, total \$251.20.

From this splendid showing it can easily be seen, that the cause of missions is a live thing among us, and God grant that it may ever be so. The coming together of many of the workers of our churches, enkindles an enthusiasm and a zeal that can't easily be smothered. We thank God for the day and for what he is enabling us to do. Our prayers go with our gift for the missionary to whom our box is sent. May the prayers and alms of our consecrated women go up to God a memorial before him.

(MRS.) W. E. ELLIS,
Vice President W. M. S. of Cophia Association.

We mistake when we think that only great deeds make worthy service. In no life can there be many large and conspicuous things; the year must chiefly be filled with little things. Take even the story of the life of Jesus. In it there were, as recorded, a definite number of miracles which stand out in the narrative as stars of the first magnitude in the heavens. But strewn through all the days, filling all the moments, crowded into all the interstices of that wonderful life, were innumerable kindnesses, unrecorded, even unremembered words and acts. Jesus was not always working miracles, but he was always doing good; and the great preponderance of the blessing he left in the world came not from his few supernatural works, but from the many common kindnesses he wrought.—

Selected.

