

BIG MISSIONARY GIFTS

The Rev. A. B. Simpson Obtains a Fund of \$61,658.

Emotional Scenes During the Twentieth Convention of the Christian Alliance at the Gospel Tabernacle.

The Rev. A. B. Simpson, President and General Superintendent of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, succeeded yesterday morning at the Gospel Tabernacle, on Eighth Avenue, in making an audience of about 1,000 persons feel their responsibility to the unconverted so keenly as to give \$53,476 in pledges and cash. He did this, too, on a Sunday morning when it rained—as those who got up early must remember—and the sky looked threatening enough to withhold the average churchgoer from the morning service. He did it, as he said he would do it, "without undue excitement, unreasonable emotion, but calmly, deliberately, and seemly, as befitted the privilege of giving to the Lord."

At a missionary service in the afternoon the pledges and the gifts were swelled to \$3,000 more, and at an evening service another \$1,500, making the donations of the entire day \$61,658. This is the amount raised in this city merely. In other places, forty-six in all, conventions like the one which has been going on here since Oct. 1 are held each year, swelling the total receipts per annum to \$250,000. That was the figure which, according to the Rev. Mr. Simpson, it reached last year.

Somewhat annoyed, if not displeased, by the reports of his wonderful achievements in raising big donations, the Rev. Mr. Simpson vouchsafed an explanation of his successes yesterday. It was supplemented by the explanation of others in the audience connected with the alliance, and was:

"Individual responsibility to God."

Asked to explain this more fully, the Rev. Mr. Simpson said that persons came to the meeting prepared to give—feeling for one reason or another that they owed it to God to do something. This explanation was borne out by the fact that several persons wrote on the pledge cards, "I give myself." It was still further borne out when the Rev. Mr. Simpson asked for those who would give themselves to the work of converting the heathen—become missionaries. It is not the least surprising feature of the service that 160 persons, men and women, jumped to their feet.

Satisfying as the explanation of Mr. Simpson was to many, the swaying power of the preacher, the music, and the arrangement of the entire service, obviously were potent factors in moving the congregation to tears, and to loosening their purse strings. One feeble old lady, more emotional than the rest, impatient, unable to wait until the proper time for giving, interrupted Mr. Simpson in the middle of his sermon. "Hallelujah!" she shouted, and ran down the aisle toward the preacher.

"There's \$15," she said, pressing the bills into Mr. Simpson's hand, "the Lord will give you more."

The sermon which the Rev. Mr. Simpson preached was plain and simple enough, save that he dwelt at some length upon statistics tending to show how few in comparison to the population of the world were converted to Christianity, and how little financial aid was given to further the cause of religion as compared with the moneys spent for temporal projects. A few of his citations were:

"In the Boer war one in every 100 went to the front; in our recent war one in every 200 went; in religion one in every 1,500 goes."

"In this city four congregations, representing 12,000 persons, did not give a cent last year for foreign missions."

"It has been estimated that 4 per cent. per annum of the money spent in this country is for liquor and tobacco. The glasses, if filled with liquor and piled up, another authority suggests, would reach to the moon."

"A few days ago I read in a paper that Columbia College needed \$10,000,000 more to carry on its work. On Tuesday last I read in going home that President Butler was already sure, beyond peradventure, that the money would be forthcoming. I'm not opposed to the higher education, but I'm afraid, my friends, that some of these young men will be educated for the devil. Isn't it enough to make Jesus weep, how little in comparison is given to the cause of bringing the heathen to God?"

"It is estimated that if the dead of a year were laid side by side their tombstones would reach six times to San Francisco and back. It is further estimated that if the dead of a day in this country alone were laid side by side their tombstones would reach half way to Albany. Think of the responsibility for Christians! In the world 1,500 persons die every day. Of this number, 1,000 die unconverted—without even a chance!"

Before coming to the point where the collection was taken, Mr. Simpson said that a man was once taking a walk with his boy in a field upon which grew tall grass. The boy, he said, hid from his father from time to time. He disappeared again at a juncture, and the father was slow in his endeavor at finding his son. He finally discovered that he had fallen into an old well. When, after great difficulty, he had drawn his son out of the hole, and had resuscitated him, the little fellow opened his eyes and said:

"Oh, papa, why didn't you hurry?"

"That's our position to the unconverted," Mr. Simpson went on. "If they knew they would be crying to us, 'Oh, why don't you hurry?'"

At this point the Rev. Mr. Simpson's voice became indistinct. He was weeping. With some difficulty he asked the Rev. Dr. Henry Wilson to lead in prayer. The latter did so, but silently. The quietude became oppressive. It was broken finally by groans from several persons in the house. Many women in the congregation were holding their handkerchiefs to their eyes, their bodies visibly shivering with emotion.

At the conclusion of this silent prayer Mr. Simpson called upon a quartet for a hymn. The hymn was plaintive, and kept the audience in the tension of emotion which the silent prayer and the weeping of the preacher had created. Mr. Simpson called for volunteers to take the collection. Cards were distributed, upon which the donors were asked to write their names and the amount of their gifts. Baskets for the taking of the cash were also passed around.

The announcements of the pledges were made by Dr. Wilson, but with interruptions by the choir. It was heard from for a time only, when amounts of thousands were announced.

"Five thousand dollars," said Dr. Wilson.

"They are passing to their doom, 1,000 souls a day!" broke in the choir, and sang a verse of the hymn.

This same procedure took place upon the announcement of every big sum, until finally the very small amounts were also noticed by the singers. When finally the total amount had been announced the old lady who had once before interrupted the service, and who was addressed as "Sister Sophie" by Mr. Simpson, again yelled out:

"Hallelujah! that was just what I had prayed for!"

Once more the baskets were passed around for the "dribbles," as Mr. Simpson expressed it, and \$193 were collected in small change. The cash then amounted to about \$4,000. The Treasurer of the alliance—David Crear—was then called upon to offer prayer, which he did, holding the basket in his hand.

An evangelical service was held in the evening. Additional subscriptions, one for \$500, were taken up to the extent of \$1,500. The Rev. Milton Bales and the Rev. W. F. Meinenger of Chicago and the Rev. D. W. Myland of Cleveland were the speakers. The convention, which is the twentieth in the history of the alliance, will close with to-day's session. The subject of the further deliberations will be the stum missions of this city.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE WORLD

George L. McNutt, "The Dinner-Pail Man," Gives His View of It at a Y. M. C. A. Meeting.

George L. McNutt, dubbed "the dinner-pail man," spoke yesterday afternoon at the West Side Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, in West Fifty-seventh Street. The trouble with the world now, the speaker said, was not that God was mean and stingy, but that men had not learned to live together and divide fairly the free gifts of Heaven. There were the useless men to be eliminated—when that was done everybody would do something useful, nobody would have to work too hard, and everybody would have the fair portion of daily bread that was his right.

Every man, said Mr. McNutt, should have liberty to live at peace with himself, his wife, his children, his neighbor, and his

God—the five things that make up the fullness of a man's life, and without any one of which he was incomplete.

Touching upon the coal strike, Mr. McNutt declared that he had been asked this question: "You are on the side of the miners, of course?" "There is no 'of course' about it," he answered. "I am on nobody's side, of course. There is a great third party to this strike, the people, and but one thing to be done—justice. For my part," he added, "I have been in the New England woods settling the strike in the best way possible for myself and family—that is, by cutting cordwood."

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY.

Observance by Methodists Throughout the Country—Dr. Neely's Work.

"Rally Day" was observed yesterday by a large proportion of the 32,000 Sunday schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. Over a million programmes were sent out from the publishing headquarters in New York. They were designed by Dr. T. B. Neely of this city, who is corresponding secretary of the Methodist Sunday School Union and head of the Methodist Sunday School system; also editor of the many Sunday school publications issued by the Methodist Church. Since Dr. Neely's incumbency Sunday schools have been graded, normal courses established, cradle rolls formed, and house-to-house visitation inaugurated.

Through his suggestion the anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, June 28, has come to be generally observed by Methodist Sunday Schools throughout the world. Dr. Neely has been identified with Bishop Warne in founding Methodist Sunday schools in the Philippines and with Dr. Drees in founding them in Porto Rico.

TO CONSECRATE A BISHOP.

The Rev. Dr. William T. Sabine to be Elevated Oct. 22.

The Twenty-first Council of the New York and Philadelphia Synod of the Reformed Episcopal Church will meet in this city at the First Reformed Episcopal Church, Madison Avenue and East Fifty-fifth Street, Manhattan, on Wednesday, Oct. 15. The principal work of the council will be the consecration of the Rev. Dr. William T. Sabine, pastor of that church, to the episcopate. As the necessary arrangements for the consecration cannot be perfected at that time, the council will adjourn after convening until Oct. 22, at the same place, when the consecration will be performed.

Dr. Sabine was recently elected to succeed Bishop Latane, who died a short time ago. He is one of the oldest clergymen in the Reformed Episcopal Church and was formerly a priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church in this diocese, from which communion he withdrew, with many others, because he thought the Anglican Communion was leaning too much toward the Church of Rome.

RUSSELL SAGE AS AN EXAMPLE.

The Rev. Mr. Banks Describes Him as a Remarkable Man.

The Rev. Louis Albert Banks, in the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, One Hundred and Fourth Street, between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, devoted his remarks preliminary to the sermon last evening to the life of Russell Sage, saying that it carries lessons for young men in business. Mr. Sage was described as a remarkable man, because he has been able to remain a leader in the financial affairs of the city for more years than most men in business in Wall Street have lived.

"Now, at the age of eighty-five," the minister said, "the report of his illness causes a tremor in business circles for the very reason that his interests are so large. That Mr. Sage was able to throw off illness speaks wonders for the same manner of his living and contains a lesson by which every young man may profit."

CHURCH SOCIETY'S CELEBRATION.

Fifty-fifth Anniversary of an Organization in Williamsburg.

The congregation of the North Fifth Street Methodist Episcopal Church, in Williamsburg, began yesterday a celebration, that is to be continued for two weeks, of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the church society. Among those who attended the morning service were some of the first members of the church and a few of the former pastors.

The services are to be evangelistic and an effort is to be made to infuse new life into the society. The Rev. Lemuel C. Richardson, the pastor of the church, and the Rev. S. H. Smith, a former pastor, spoke at the services yesterday.