

# ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

This Distinguished American Journalist Travelling Around the World for the Purpose of Investigating the American Foreign Missionary Work from a Fairly Disinterested, Objective and Non-Partisan Standpoint. Illustrated with Drawings and from Photographs.

Foreign Missions Useful But Inadequate

Rome, Italy.—Here in the center of the world's religious interest, homeward bound, I look back over nearly a year's investigation of Christian missions in the orient for a final review and summary. What is the conclusion of the whole matter? Are foreign missions worth while?

The answer must be in the affirmative. Considered only from the standpoint of humanitarian and philanthropic service, the entire missionary enterprise justifies its existence. Add to these great works of healing, education and care for the orphaned and the needy, the beneficial influence which has been exerted upon the characters of thousands of native converts, as well as the more general, though none the less unmistakable influence wielded in behalf of civilization, and it will be seen that the missionary agencies which the churches of Christendom maintain at an annual expenditure of many millions of dollars is one of the tremendous twentieth century forces making for the world's progress.

Without amplifying this point, which has surely been made plain in the preceding articles, let me suggest some general considerations and criticisms which appear to be important enough to deserve the attention of the general public, as well as of that large constituency especially interested in missions.

### Where Churches Should Get Together.

I know of no other undertaking anywhere at all approaching this one in magnitude which is managed in such a helter-skelter, disorganized fashion, or on such an unbusinesslike basis. I do not here allude to the administration of the individual boards, but to the propaganda as a whole. Sentiment, mood and emotion, rather than tested principle and careful judgment, seem to be the foundation of most missionary activity. If a man or a body can display especial efficiency in stirring the feelings of the home constituency he or it can be sure of plenty of funds and a free field to go where it will and do what it pleases in the mission world. There is at present no sufficient method of checking up the work of foreign missions.

This sort of thing, and worse mistakes, are in good part due to the help-yourself fashion in which the denominations work. Only in the more recent fields has there been an appointment of territory among the churches, although everywhere the need for this is so urgent that the denominations are now recognizing and yielding to it. Plainly, there is no sufficient reason why the mission work of the Protestant churches in heathen lands should not be done as one closely-cooperating body. The avowed aim is the conversion of the people, and not the perpetuation and extension of denominational names, creeds and authority upon the mission field. The present arrangement is expensive, divisive and a hindrance to the end sought. What sense or reason is there, for instance, in establishing northern and southern Presbyterian churches in China, where the very existence of America is a nebulous matter to most of the people and the fact of the civil war is unknown to 999 persons out of every thousand? Left to themselves, the native Christians in the field I have visited would not be long in forming one Christian church.

### Businesslike Methods Needed.

Pending the time of actual union, every possible form of cooperation should be adopted. The commercial sagacity of the method which keeps half a dozen expensive theologically-trained "business agents" in the same port city to do the purely secular work for separate boards which could all be done by one undorned business man does not appeal to the wayfarer. Neither does the zeal for planting new work in these outposts (often in competition with native churches) where expenses are highest, difficulties greatest and results fewest, when there are unlimited favorable openings in the untouched interior. Most port cities, be it remarked, need a subtraction rather than an addition of missionaries.

A closer and more vigorous supervision of missions on the part of sensible, courageous men of authority, will result in the weeding out of the occasional unfit missionary and in remedying tactical blunders in the location of stations and in the character of the work.

Two other important services this businesslike supervision would accomplish: It would insure the sending of sane, well-balanced and accurate reports to the homeland, and it would deal vigorously with the criticisms which are so common on the other side of the globe that they constitute a serious barrier to missionary success. Criticisms which are even partly true should be frankly admitted, and the evils remedied; those which are not true should be boldly challenged and silenced.

The position can never be maintained that missionaries are impeccable, and to answer careful, definite criticisms, as some which have appeared in this correspondence have been answered, by the sweeping state-

ment that it is "morally impossible" for a missionary to do wrong, is simply to put missionary defense beyond the pale of consideration by thinking men. In the one particular instance where my criticism had been definitely disputed I had said that a certain northern Methodist missionary had lent his ability and influence to a corporation seeking concessions from the Chinese government. The board secretary and certain denominational papers attacked me virulently for this, declaring that I did not know what I was talking about. Then, to their utter confusion, along came the presiding Methodist Episcopal bishop of China, fully substantiating the charge, but exonerating the missionary from wrong intention and assuming responsibility himself.

Similarly, more effective administration of the missionary propaganda will furnish the traveling public with the easily ascertained facts of the mission fields, and will put forth effort to introduce them to missions in actual operation. It will also grapple with the problem of the moral and spiritual condition of the port cities; for so long as the European portion of these ports remain as they are the work of missions is bound to be seriously hampered.

### Missionary Mistakes.

Before leaving this subject I must make a rather sweeping criticism which the board should have dealt with long ago. It is that an astonishing proportion of missionaries display bad manners and bad taste on shipboard. To deny this charge, which in one form or another, has been made in times without number, is to turn one's back on the facts. The conduct of some missionaries aboard ship is one of the most prolific sources of the antimissionary spirit which pervades passenger ships the world over, and practically all of the port cities of the orient. Some of the criticisms made in this connection are simply unanswerable.

What is to be said, for example, in defense of the woman missionary whose place at the table had to be changed three times on the voyage across the Pacific last month? In the first place, her astounding meddlesomeness had brought upon her a rebuke at which she felt offended and changed her seat; later, the passengers with whom she was seated found her so uncomfortable a companion that they complained to the steward and insisted on having either her seat or theirs changed. The answer commonly made to stories like this is that the missionary's godliness no doubt rebuked the stuffiness of the other passengers, which is neither a modest nor a charitable rejoinder. In this case, the story was told me by a prominent American business man, a church member, who himself had been attending a series of missionary meetings in Omaha just before leaving home, and so could hardly be called a hostile critic.

I could write literally columns of incidents concerning the conduct of missionaries on shipboard, whereby they have earned the disfavor of officers and fellow passengers. Summed up, though, they amount to this: Some missionaries seem inclined to flaunt their moral and spiritual superiority in the face of others; they insist on having an identity as missionaries, rather than as quiet, modest, well-bred ladies and gentlemen; they protest, often in unseemly fashion, against the indulgence in tobacco or liquor or cards on the part of other passengers. All this may be comprehended in the word "provincialism." They forget that, as Kipling says: "There's a world outside the one you know."

and that the people of this world have all the personal rights and liberties which are to be accorded to the members of the missionary circle. Sometimes this provincialism goes to the length of stupidity, as when a Pacific liner crossed the meridian on Sunday, and so dropped that day from the calendar, whereupon the missionaries appeared in a body to the captain to drop some other day, and save Sunday, as if the matter were optional with him!

Not all missionaries are guilty of these things, far from it. The ablest missionaries deprecate them seriously, for they realize their far-reaching effects upon the cause they represent. In explanation, if not in extenuation, they point out that missionaries leaving the homeland are still in the spirit of exaltation created by their farewell meetings, by the glorification of their friends and by the role of saint, hero and martyr with which they have been invested. For the time they are in a crusader mood, and they have not yet learned to view all things in proportion. Their feet have not yet found the hard ground of actuality. One of these unwise missionaries can do more harm than a hundred sensible ones can undo.

I must confess, moreover, that I do not see why a Pacific mail captain should forbid missionaries to sing hymns at the piano on the boat deck, except on Sunday, and yet allow other passengers to make the night vocal

on the same spot, with the latest "popular" songs, or why the missionaries should not be permitted to hold a prayer meeting in the saloon, while a noisy, drinking coterie is uproariously gambling in the smoking room. I freely criticize much in the conduct of many missionaries aboard ship, but I believe in "a square deal." The man who drinks whisky on shipboard should be given no advantage over the man who drinks water, other things being equal, nor the man who gambles over the man who prays, nor the woman who sings "risque" songs over the one who prefers "Old Hundred." Plain words need to be spoken to the missionaries, and other plain words to the officers of the steamship companies, especially the trans-Pacific lines.

If a person has maintained a reasonable familiarity with missionary reports he goes to the foreign mission field expecting to see evidences of tremendous successes. Has he not been told that Japan, China, India are on the verge of admittance into the Christian church? There is a sudden jolt to this expectancy when he finds the blank wall of heathendom rising up before the missionaries as cold, as strong and, at first sight, as scathless as ever. He learns later of the successes in the line of mining and sapping this wall, which, up to date, have been the principal missionary methods; but his general impression is one of disappointment. He cannot but feel that the triumphs of missions have been overstated. At this point enters the need for better supervision, as I have already intimated.

For example, the observer recalls the statement, printed times without number in American publications, that China has made Sunday a legal holiday. This he finds to be utterly untrue. Where China touches the west the first day of the week has gradually become, in some measure, a holiday. But it is nowhere a Sabbath, except among the few Christians. At another time it was widely reported that a certain city had thrown away its idols, but investigation shows the city as anti-Christian as ever, and the only basis for the tale is the fact that one temple discarded its old idols for new. Here a great revival is reported to have swept over the community; the westerner naturally thinks of this in terms of a Moody and Sankey campaign. Superficially, however, there are no signs of the revival, although closer search reveals an unusual earnestness on the part of the handful of Christians.

How may these missionary exaggerations be accounted for? I have talked with many missionaries upon this point. The expectation of the boards that the workers shall send in favorable reports, the necessity for showing successes to stimulate gifts, the natural human tendency to enlarge upon the favorable side, all have been given as reasons. "The fact is," remarked one missionary, "when a man gets home and begins to make speeches he finds himself saying what the people want to hear, and losing sight of the facts of the field. I know I have caught myself doing this. I have no hardships in my missionary work, yet the people at home were so determined to make me out a martyr that I almost came to believe myself one before I left America."

All the stronger men on the field regret the distorted and misleading statements that are so frequently made by interested enthusiasts concerning missions and missionaries; they are far-sighted enough to know the consequences when these reports come back to the field. I have known more than one missionary to be seriously embarrassed by being presented to the community in which he lives in the light in which he is seen by his admirers at home.

There is another side to the question; dread of this sort of thing has kept more than one worker from sending home reports of well-authenticated successes and endorsements. An American woman at the head of one of the Presbyterian mission schools for girls in China has been asked by the officials of the important province in which she works to take charge of the female education in the province, but never a word of this has she written home to her board. "It will be time enough when I have actually been given the work," says this cautious woman, who knows China; "there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip."

### A Reconnaissance, Not a War.

The most serious of all the unintentional misrepresentations made by missionaries is that the whole heathen world is on the verge of becoming Christian. Faith, not facts, is the basis of the common assertion, "The world is being won for Christ." Making due allowance for rhetorical fervor, it still remains true that a seriously erroneous impression is left upon the Christian public's mind by the day's missionary representations.

For a first-hand study of the field reveals that, with an occasional notable exception like Korea, heathendom has scarcely been budged by the missionaries' work. The great mass of the pagan world is as yet practically untouched by the gospel. If Christians are determined to bear their religion to the whole earth, as is apparently their purpose, they must do things on a vastly larger scale than heretofore. Thus far only a mere beginning has been made. Instead of a war, it is only a reconnaissance in force—a brave, brilliant and successful reconnaissance, it is true, but, nevertheless, only a reconnaissance. The real fighting can hardly be said to have begun.

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### A Lottery At Best.

And those who marry for love are just as apt to bump up against disappointment as those who marry for money.

### WORN OUT WOMEN

Will Find Encouragement In Mrs. Merritt's Advice.

Mrs. W. L. Merritt, 207 S. First Ave., Anoka, Minn., says: "Last winter I began to suffer with my kidneys. I had pains in my back and hips and felt all worn out. Dizzy spells bothered me and the kidney secretions were irregular. The first box of Doan's Kidney Pills brought decided relief. I am sure they would do the same for any other woman suffering as I did."



Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-McBurn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Chaired. A maiden who lived in Siberia, where all is so frigid and drear, Felt sad, met a bear. And when loquacious I'd swear It does my heart good to be here." —Houston Post.

### Scared Into It.

It was announced on the ice. "But how on earth," said the girl in the white skating suit, "did you get him to propose, dear?" The girl in sables smiled slightly. "Oh, easily enough," she retorted. "I told him that you were crazy about him and reminded him that it was leap year."

### How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm. WASHINGTON, DRUGGISTS, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

### HAD LISTENED TO DADDY.

Force of Example Exemplified in Precocious Youngster.

There is a certain man living not far from New York whose temper is not of the longest, and when he feels that his rage is justifiable he is very apt to indulge in fluent, versatile and varied profanity.

And it is when using the telephone that this talent of his is seen and heard at its maximum of speed and endurance. Central has but to say "Wire busy now," or "Doesn't answer," to evoke a flood of language.

One day he had been having an unusually stormy session, and did not notice that his two-year-old son was sitting in a corner of the room, his face rapt and absorbed. A few hours later the child's mother came in and was horrified beyond words to hear her baby giving voice to a stream of expletives, some of which began with a very large capital D—the rest with a variety of letters quite unmentionable in this connection. She descended upon him in righteous wrath.

"Don't you ever let me hear you use such words again," she said in no uncertain tones.

"Why, mother," expostulated the baby in an injured voice, "I'm telephoning!"

### CUTTING, VERY!



Ardent Lover—Can't you see—can't you guess that I love you—adore you? The Girl—Well, I should hate to think this was just your natural way of behaving in company.

### CUBS' FOOD

They Thrive on Grape-Nuts.

Healthy babies don't cry and the well-nourished baby that is fed on Grape-Nuts is never a crying baby. Many babies who cannot take any other food relish the perfect food, Grape-Nuts, and get well.

"My little baby was given up by three doctors who said that the condensed milk on which I fed her had ruined the child's stomach. One of the doctors told me that the only thing to do would be to try Grape-Nuts, so I got some and prepared it as follows: I soaked 1½ tablespoonfuls in one pint of cold water for half an hour, then I strained off the liquid and mixed 12 teaspoonfuls of this strained Grape-Nuts juice with six teaspoonfuls of rich milk, put in a pinch of salt and a little sugar, warmed it and gave it to baby every two hours."

In this simple, easy way I saved baby's life and have built her up to a strong healthy child, rosy and laughing. The food must certainly be perfect to have such a wonderful effect as this. I can truthfully say I think it is the best food in the world to raise delicate babies on, and is also a delicious healthy food for grown-ups as we have discovered in our family.

Grape-Nuts is equally valuable to the strong, healthy man or woman. It stands for the true theory of health. "There's a Reason. Read 'The Road to Wellville,' in pkgs.

### ONE WIFE IN HARD TIMES.

Financial Reasons Made Him Disbelieve in Polygamy.

S. P. Orth, assistant United States district attorney, was the government representative at a naturalization hearing over in Toledo the other day. The applicant for papers, a German, who ran mostly to mustache, had answered all of the questions that had been put to him satisfactorily.

"And do you believe in the principles of polygamy?" asked the judge, in ponderous tones.

"Sure," says the German, for the word sounded as if it was something that he ought to be in favor of. Like as not it was something about the constitution.

"Do you know what 'polygamy' means?" thundered the judge.

The applicant confessed that the word was a new one on him.

"Well, I'll make it plain to you," said the court, sternly. "Can you get along with one wife?"

"Shure," replied the applicant, earnestly; "one's a plenty, the way prices are."—Toledo Blade.

### AN ADVERTISING TRICK FOR WESTERN FARMERS.

Real Estate "Agents" Go After Men with Land for Sale and Reap Rich Harvest.

A smooth scheme for separating farmers from their money has been worked with much success in South Dakota. An oily grafter calls on a farmer and makes a bid for his land. The figures are absurdly low at first, but by degrees are raised as high as \$50 an acre, and the farmer consents. Then the visitor explains that he is only an agent, but that he can sell the land at the price named if the owner will agree to pay for advertising at the rate of fifty cents an acre. The "agent" promises orally that the advertising money will not be payable until the land is sold, but this stipulation is not contained in a contract that the farmer signs.

In a few days he receives a copy of an ad and not over-courteous demand for money. It is said that twenty-two agriculturists were caught with this bait in Brown County and that one of them gave up \$320. Others declare hotly that they will not pay but they will make a fight in the courts.

### Neatly Put.

Homer Folks, the secretary of the State Charity Aid society of New York, referred in a recent address to the awkwardness that charity workers feel in making public appeals for funds.

"And few charity workers," Mr. Folks added, "can carry off that awkwardness with the neatness of the colored preacher who reminded his congregation that:

"'Broden, Ah kaint preach hyah an' build in hebn'."

### CUTICURA CURED FOUR

Southern Woman Suffered with Itching, Burning Rash—Three Little Babies Had Skin Troubles.

"My baby had a running sore on his neck and nothing that I did for it took effect until I used Cuticura. My face was nearly full of tetter or some similar skin disease. It would itch and burn so that I could hardly stand it. Two cakes of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment cured me. Two years after it broke out on my hands and wrist. Sometimes I would go nearly crazy for it itched so badly. I went back to my old stand-by, that had never failed me—one set of Cuticura Remedies did the work. One set also cured my uncle's baby whose head was a cake of sores, and another baby who was in the same fix. Mrs. Lillie Wileher, 770 Eleventh St., Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 16, 1907."

It may be the uncertainty of flirting that appeals to a girl; she is never quite sure but what she really means it.

### SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Greasy Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

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Cleanses the System Effectually; Disperses Colds and Headaches due to Constipation; Acts naturally, acts truly as a Laxative.

Best for Men, Women and Children—Young and Old.

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SOLD BY ALL LEADING DRUGGISTS. one size only, regular price 50¢ per bottle.



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Some of the choicest grain-producing lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta may now be acquired in these most healthful and prosperous sections under the

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by which entry may be made by proxy (on certain conditions), by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader. Entry fee in each case is \$10.00. For pamphlet, "Last Best West," particulars as to rates, routes, best time to go and where to locate, apply to W. V. BENNETT, 861 New York Life Building, Omaha, Nebraska.

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