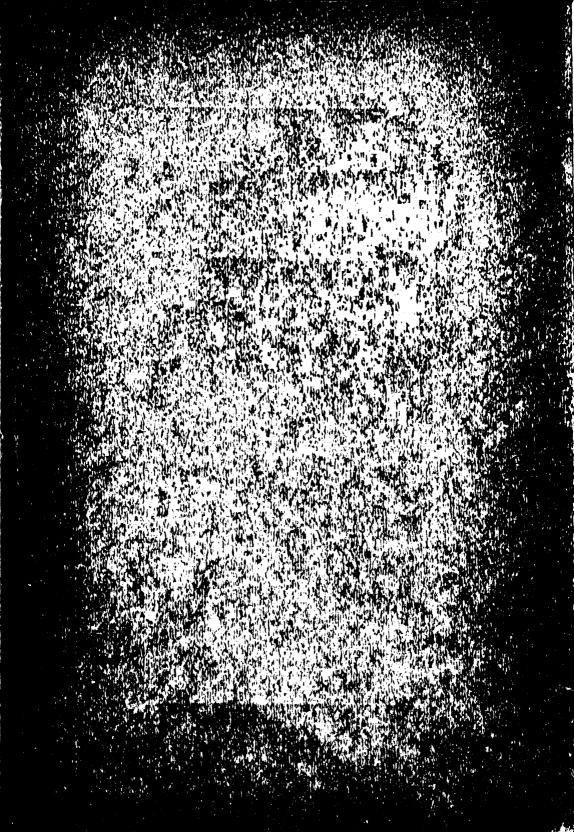
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FACTS OF PROGRESS IN THE WORK OF CHRIST AMONG STUDENTS

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE

WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION,
PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE HELD AT VERSAILLES, FRANCE,
AUGUST 3-8, 1900

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REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

I. PRINCIPAL FACTS OF PROGRESS SINCE THE EISENACH CONFERENCE

The two years which have passed since we met at Eisenach have been characterized by progress in all the movements of which the Federation is composed. Taking the whole world into consideration it may be said that the development of the student movement has been nothing less than remarkable. This development has been symmetrical as well as extensive. There are facts of encouragement to record in connection with every department and aspect of the work.

- 1. The number of Christian associations in affiliation with the Federation is now fully fourteen hundred. Over one hundred new organizations have been formed during the two years. In addition to these new societies the Student Young Women's Christian Associations of the United States and Canada have been affiliated. By this act of affiliation the oldest, largest and strongest movement among women students has become an organic part of the world-wide student Federation.
- 2. In the work among medical and other professional students in the large cities there has been real progress. The work in the medical colleges and in the hospitals of London has assumed such proportions that one secretary has devoted his entire time to promoting its development. In Amsterdam the work of the past year has been attended with much encouragement. In Colombo, Ceylon, an Association has been organized among the medical students. The American and Canadian movement has set apart a secretary to organize and to guide the work among the students of the large cities of North America.

Possibly the strongest metropolitan student movement is that of Chicago.

- 3. In all parts of the world more and better directed efforts have been put forth than ever before on behalf of school boys. In Germany and Great Britain where such work has been conducted for many years, the results have continued to be satisfactory. School boys' camps have been inaugurated successfully also in Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, India, and America. The student movement of Japan has succeeded in organizing Associations in several government academies or schools for boys. The American movement has followed the precedent of the German movement in appointing a secretary to devote himself entirely to work among school boys. Work among school boys is of great importance to all our student movements because the gymnasia and other preparatory schools are the keys to the universities, and also because the boys in these schools are at the age when they are most susceptible to religious impressions.
- 4. The student conferences held in the different countries have been largely attended, and have exercised a helpful influ-The most notable gatherings of the past two years have been the Volunteer Conference in London, and the Triennial National Convention of the College Young Men's Christian Association of China, held at Shanghai. The former gathering was attended by over sixteen hundred student delegates, and constituted the largest and most representative student convention ever held in Europe. It has given a mighty impetus to the cause of missions throughout the Protestant student centres of Europe. Among the many student summer conferences held in various parts of the world, apparently the strongest and most fruitful have been the Northfield Conference, the one held at Lake Geneva, in the State of Wisconsin, the Scandinavian Conference, held in Norway, and the two gatherings of Australasia.
- 5. In connection with the various student movements of the world, about one hundred new pamphlets and books have been issued since the Eisenach Conference. This marks the largest

increase in literature bearing on student work ever made in such a period. It is an encouraging fact because an enlarging literature is an indication not only that the movements are growing, but also that the problems and work of these movements are receiving more attention and thought. The Scandinavian, British and American movements have had the largest increase in the number of publications. The periodical of the German movement records the greatest increase in circulation. When the objects of an official organ of a national Christian student movement are borne in mind it may be said that the periodicals of the Japanese and Chinese movements have in most respects held the lead during the past two years.

- 6. The financial status of most of the student movements is more satisfactory than at the time of the Eisenach Conference. There are indications that the students and professors are recognizing more clearly and fully than ever their responsibility for the financial support of the work carried on in the different countries. The experience of the Australasian movement, in promoting among its members systematic and proportionate giving, abounds in valuable suggestion to all our Christian student organizations.
- 7. Viewing the world as a whole, it is significant and cheering to note that the number of conversions among students continues to increase. From all parts of the Federation field during the past two years there have come inspiring reports of students entering the Kingdom of God. Some of the most remarkable spiritual awakenings in the history of Christianity have taken place at student centres in Europe, America and This is notably true of China, the Scandinavian Asia. countries, Scotland, the United States and Canada. The revival at Yale University was the most extensive and thorough religious movement carried on among students in recent years, and the study of its causes, of the method of its conduct, and of the conservation of results is most instructive. It is interesting to notice the increasing emphasis which is being placed by our movements on associated personal work of Christian students

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on behalf of their fellow students, as not only a Scriptural but also one of the most practical and fruitful methods of influencing men to accept Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord.

- In every country the student years, 1898-99 and 1899-1900, have witnessed advance steps in the promotion of Bible study. It means much to state that the number of students who are studying the Christian Scriptures is constantly increasing in all parts of the world, even in non-Christian lands. It is a yet more impressive fact that the quality of the Bible study carried on in connection with all our movements is improving. tematic and progressive courses of Scripture studies are being prepared in several countries, and they are being more wisely adapted to meet the conditions of student life than was the case a few years ago. The movement which has made the greatest relative progress in Bible study within the past two years is that of Australasia. There have also been gratifying developments in Germany, Holland, Japan, and South Africa. years' Cycle of Bible study, now being issued by the North American movement, seems to be meeting with more favor than any other Bible course prepared for students. One of the chief causes, if not the chief cause, of the great progress in Bible study is the improved leadership of the classes or circles. Some of our movements wisely recognize how vital this point is, and are devoting much attention by normal classes at summer conferences and by other means to training students for this
- 9. The missionary interest among students continues to spread and to deepen. A scholarly study of missions is being promoted by the movements in several countries where a short time ago no opportunities for such study were afforded. To facilitate this study special text books have been prepared, notably, those issued by the British and American movements. Some of these books have had a very large circulation, and have been introduced into the curricula of important universities and colleges. This educational missionary work, carried on by the student movements, is rendering a great service to the

cause of Christ by insuring a more intelligent leadership of the missionary forces of the Church. The number of students offering themselves for foreign service still grows, not only in Britain and America, but also in Germany, Scandinavia, Australasia, South Africa, and other lands. Moreover, a larger number of student volunteers have completed their studies and gone out to the mission fields during the last two years than in any similar period in the past.

The Volunteer Movement has been extended to Holland and Finland, which two years ago were the only Protestant portions of the world not reached in an organized form. It is one of the most wonderful facts in the life of the Church that just at this time, when the entire world is open to the proclamation of the Gospel, the students of Protestant Christendom are united in the common purpose to preach Christ to every creature.

II. A FIVE YEARS' CONTRAST: THE STUDENT WORK IN 1895 AND IN 1900

Attention has been called to the great facts of progress during the two years which have elapsed since the Eisenach Conference. It will be still more impressive to contrast the student work of 1900 with that of 1895, before the Federation was organized. These five years constitute the most eventful and significant period in the religious history of the student world. In 1895 there were nine hundred student Christian Associations or Unions in universities, colleges, or higher schools; now there are fourteen hundred. Then forty-five thousand students and professors were members of such societies; now the number is nearly, if not quite, sixty-five thousand. Then there were ten national student movements; now there are fifteen. At that time the various national movements were isolated, and their members were comparatively ignorant of the work of Christ among the students in lands other than their own; now we have the World's Student Christian Federation, which unites all the Christian student movements of the world, which has set these

movements to acting and reacting upon one another most helpfully, and which has not only made the students of each land intelligent concerning those of other nations and races, and brought them into sympathy with one another, but also has developed among them a world consciousness. were only thirty-eight secretaries spending all, or the larger part, of their time in Christian work among students; this year there are one hundred and one. Then there were twenty-one buildings, valued at £80,000, devoted to the work of student Christian associations; now there are thirty-nine, valued at over £200,000. In 1895 there were held ten national student conferences, attended by twenty-six hundred student delegates; during the past year there have been twenty such conferences, with an attendance of over fifty-two hundred students. there were less than fifty pamphlets and books published in the interest of the various student movements; now there are nearly two hundred. The six periodicals of national student movements then in existence had a combined circulation of about six thousand; the number of periodicals has since increased to thirteen, having a circulation of fully twenty thousand. Then there were spiritual awakenings reported in but three or four countries; since then the number of conversions among students has increased year after year, and during the past year alone there have been spiritual awakenings in nearly every land included in the Federation. In those days there were eleven thousand students in the Bible classes and circles of the various Christian associations; to-day the number is over twenty-five thousand. In that year there were about two thousand students in mission study classes; during the past year the number was nearly five thousand. Then the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions had been organized in two countries; now it includes students, not only of all Protestant Christian lands, but also of the Orient, and, as a result of this movement, more students have gone to the mission fields during the past five years than during the preceding ten years. These facts—which are based on authentic evidenceare mighty in their meaning. They convey a message which should evoke gratitude, strengthen faith, and banish discouragement. They tell us unmistakably that God Himself is in this work.

- III. OUTLINE OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY FOR THE TWO STUDENT YEARS, 1898-99 AND 1899-1900
- 1. During the two years, I have worked among the students of twelve different countries. Instead of paying short visits to many places, the more satisfactory plan of devoting a number of days to each university visited has been followed. As a result, a more or less thorough work has been accomplished at over forty leading universities and colleges.
- 2. Help has been rendered at twenty-one conventions and conferences, which were attended by between three and four thousand students and professors, representing five hundred and thirty-five universities, colleges, and schools. A majority of these conferences were composed of leaders in the Christian organizations of their respective institutions of learning. The reason for attending so many gatherings is that it affords an opportunity to help indirectly a far larger number of universities and colleges than in any other way.
- 3. As the work of the Federation, and of the movements composing it, has grown in extent and complexity it has become necessary for the general secretary to spend more time than formerly at the office of the Federation. The principal work conducted there has been correspondence, the volume of which has constantly increased. Regular communication has been maintained with officers of all the student movements, and with leaders in work among students in nearly forty countries.
- 4. The promotion of the observance of the Universal Day of Prayer for Students has required considerable attention during each of the past two years. The Call to Prayer was prepared and issued, and an extensive correspondence conducted in the interest of the wider and more vital observance of the day.

Although the returns are not complete, it is certain that the Federation Call to Prayer was heeded and honored in about thirty-five countries. Without doubt, one of the greatest influences which has been exerted by the Federation has been the silent yet mighty power of united world-wide intercession.

- 5. Three pamphlets have been written, and the English edition of the Eisenach Conference report and the latest publication of the Federation, "The Survey of the Christian Student Movements of the World," have been edited. I have also recently written a book on the evangelization of the world, which has a vital bearing on the significance and opportunities of the Federation.
- 6. Extended and accurate reports of all the movements in the Federation have been obtained and compiled each year. This has not been accomplished without difficulty. In addition to the regular reports of the student movements, special reports have been secured from different lands which do not have national movements.
- 7. The "Exchange List and Directory" of the Federation has been revised and issued each year with the coöperation of the workers in the various nations. This plan of placing the leaders in the student work of all parts of the earth in communication with one another, and of facilitating the interchange of literature, has been one of the most helpful, and certainly one of the most appreciated, services rendered by the Federation.
- 8. Regular attention has been given to building up the archives of the Federation. These already constitute the most complete collection of printed and written works bearing on the moral and religious life of students, now in existence. The coöperation of the leaders in the different countries is needed in order to still further enrich this collection.
- 9. In conjunction with the other members of the Federation Conference Committee, and of the Local Committee in Paris, considerable time has been given to plans and work in preparation for the Versailles Conference.
 - 10. It has been a privilege, as well as a responsibility, to

help select and train twenty-three secretaries, who have entered the service of five national or international student movements. No reference is made to the work of raising money in aid of national student movements and of the Federation.

11. By no means the least important and necessary part of the work of the General Secretary is that of original investigation and comparative study of the problems involved in the promotion of the religious life of students, and in their enlistment in the great work of extending the Kingdom of God in the world. The highest and deepest interests of the Federation require that such work command one's best energies.

IV. OTHER WORK ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERATION

The Federation has received great help from several workers in addition to the constant and absolutely invaluable service rendered by the Chairman, Dr. Fries, and the helpful coöperation of the Treasurer, Mr. Moule. After the visit of the General Secretary to Russia, he recommended that Mr. H. Witt, the Traveling Secretary of the German movement, make a tour in that country to work among Lutheran students. response to the request of the Federation, Mr. Witt consented to make such a tour. During November and December, 1899, he had meetings in the chief Lutheran student centres of Russia, namely, Dorpat, Riga, Moscow, and St. Petersburg; and also in Helsingfors, Finland, and Upsala, Sweden. standing the extremely great diffculties in the way, his work In each place in Russia a was attended with marked success. Bible circle was started and students were quickened spiritually. He made many friends for the student movement, and paved the way for further visits by representatives of the Federation. The German movement is ready to coöperate with the Federation in following up these encouraging beginnings.

The Federation, in conjunction with the Student Christian Movement in Mission Lands, induced Mr. W. H. Sallmon, for three years the Traveling Secretary of the Australasian move-

ment, to visit, while on his way West, colleges and schools in Ceylon, in the Levant and in Southeastern Europe. During the months of March, April, May, and June of the present year, he made successful visits at student centres in Ceylon, Egypt, Palestine and Syria, Asia Minor, Turkey in Europe, Greece, Bulgaria, and Hungary. His was the first visit which some of these colleges had ever received from a representative of the Federation. Others had not had such a visitor for five years. Mr. Sallmon's work was thorough and abiding. It has resulted in the strengthening of the Associations already in existence, in preparing the way for new organizations, and in bringing these isolated bands of Christian students into practical and vital touch with the Federation.

Attention should be called also to the valuable assistance rendered the Federation by Mr. E. Favre, in making the official French translation of the constitution and other papers; by Mr. Theophil Mann, in editing the German edition of the report of the Eisenach Conference; by Mr. D. Willard Lyon, of the Chinese movement, in investigating the student field of Korea; by Mr. M. Spencer, of Oxford University, in gathering and circulating news about the various movements and in calling forth more prayer on behalf of the work of the Federation; and by all others who in different ways have helped to strengthen the Federation bond and to increase its influence for good.

V. THE SECRET OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE FEDERATION

The World's Student Christian Federation is more than a mere name, more than an inspiring idea, more than a form. It is a reality. It has become one of the greatest facts in the student world. What is the secret of its influence and power? The answer to this question may at the same time best suggest how the Federation may be kept in the place of power and how it may do the maximum of good in the world. In the first place, the Federation is the servant of all the national movements, and in no sense their governor. Its ambition is to decrease, that the

national organizations may increase. May it realize more and more fully the deep truth of the words of Christ, "Except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth by itself alone; but if it die, it beareth much fruit."

Again, the Federation recognizes and honors the diversified working of the Spirit of God. It believes that each national movement and each race should not only preserve but also strengthen its individuality and divinely implanted character-When the Federation was formed, there were some who feared that it would tend to destroy or weaken national and racial characteristics. In experience the exact opposite has proved to be true. Without doubt, the Federation has freed the minds of the members of all movements of much prejudice concerning other movements, and led the workers of each race and nation to see some good in the movements of all other parts of the world; but at the same time it has helped to preserve and strengthen that which was good in each.

While the Federation has thus honored the varied working of the Spirit, it has also sought to exemplify, emphasize and promote that spirit of unity for which our Lord longed when He prayed that we all might be one. Accordingly, it has had in all its conferences, committee meetings and activities, the manifest presence of Christ

Another secret of the influence of the Federation is that, from its inception, it has given prominence to the great and abiding spiritual forces and facts—the reality and efficacy of prayer, the saving work of the risen and living Christ, the illuminating influence and energizing power of the Spirit and Word of God.

Moreover, the Federation has had such a far-reaching influence because it has been practical. It has never been satisfied to leave matters in the realm of thought and discussion. it has conscientiously tried to be thorough in its theoretical work, it has ever summoned us on to the field of action. kept before us faithfully the objective of all our knowledge and all our discussions—character and service. It has constantly

reminded us of the great work for which all our movements exist—the world-wide extension and establishment of the Kingdom of Christ.

VI. REGIONS BEYOND IN THE WORK OF THE FEDERATION

There are great regions beyond in the work of the Federation. Think of the unoccupied student field of the Latin countries of Europe, and of Central and South America. In these countries there are in the scores of universities and colleges nearly one hundred and fifty thousand students. The vast majority of them are drifting on the wide sea of scepticism and agnosticism. With the exception of a few centres in France and Switzerland, where a valuable work is being carried on, there are in all this field practically no Protestant student organizations. The Federation should take steps to investigate the conditions in this field, and to inaugurate work wherever it may be practicable. In this connection the coöperation of the French and Swiss movements is greatly needed and desired.

In the government universities and other higher educational institutions of Russia, there are fully thirty thousand students. Barring the comparatively small number of Lutheran students, these young men are cut off from all evangelical Christian influences. Their religious attitude and position may be well called *confessionslos*. This is the most difficult student field in the world, for the simple reason that because of government restrictions the Russian students are more inaccessible than those of any other land. Surely here is a problem which will tax the best thought of the Federation, and which should stimulate the prayers of all members of the student brotherhood.

The student movements of Japan and of India and of Ceylon need the help of the Federation that ways and means may be devised for reaching with Christian influences the one hundred and fifty thousand students in their higher government institutions. From a human point of view the progress of Christianity in these great countries depends as much upon the solution of this problem as upon any other one thing.

Out of the present confusion and turmoil in old China a new China will soon begin to emerge. Whether or not it is to be a dismembered China is not the matter of chief concern. The most vital consideration is that it is to be a new China. The burning question is, Which shall the new China be, Christian or non-Christian? That will depend largely upon its leadership. Its leaders are to be trained in the few modern colleges which already exist and in the many new colleges which will be established in the near future. It is of first importance, therefore, that the Federation render all the help in its power to enable the Chinese movement to influence for Christ the leaders of the new China.

The Federation should bear in mind one of the main objects which called it into being, namely, to promote mutually helpful relations among the various national movements. thing, therefore, which creates misunderstanding, distrust or jealousy should be guarded against and overcome. Everything should be done which is calculated to foster among the Christian students of each country an intelligent, sympathetic and really Christian regard for the students of other lands. Intervisitation on the part of leaders of different movements, the sending of delegates from one nation to the conferences of other nations, the interchange of literature, and regular correspondence should be encouraged. Above all, we should heed the apostolic practice and teaching to pray much for one another. ranks of the Federation are the future leaders of Church and State. It is impossible to measure its possibilities if it preserves among these coming leaders in the realms of thought and action in the many lands the real spirit of Christian unity. What may it not accomplish in breaking down national, racial, social and denominational barriers among the professed disciples of a common Lord, in Whom we are essentially one?

Some plan should be devised by the Federation by which students going from one country to study in another shall be sur-

rounded with Christian influences. There are hundreds of Russian students in the universities of Switzerland. There are thousands of Americans studying in Europe, chiefly in Germany and France. Not a few students come from Australasia, South Africa and Canada, to continue their work in British univer-As a rule, the students who avail themselves of these opportunities in foreign lands return to hold responsible positions in their native countries. How desirable it is that they be kept in vital touch with Christ and His work. the most important students to be reached and held are those who come from the Orient to study in the universities of the West-especially the Japanese coming to Europe and America, and the Indians coming to Great Britain. It is interesting in this connection to recall that some of the Japanese students in America who are in sympathy with Christianity have recently formed a union, and are seeking to draw into it all of their compatriots in American universities.

The crowning work of the Federation, as of all the national movements, is that of leading students to commit their lives to Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Although the Christward movement throughout the student world has been increasing during recent years, it is by no means as great as it should be, and as it would be if the leaders in student work really gave this object its place of preëminence in their policy and in their activities. There should be spiritual awakenings in hundreds instead of scores of student centres. There should be many, and not simply a few, strong pastors, professors and secretaries devoting time to evangelistic work among students. Christian union, and not here and there only, there should be a group of earnest students seeking by faithful personal dealing to win their fellow students to Christ. A far greater volume of prayer should be called forth, that the Spirit of God Himself may work with mighty, converting power in all our movements. When we think of the great extent, the ceaseless activity and the deadly work of the forces of evil which are seeking to ruin students, and when we think of the desire and ability of Christ to save these students, we, as leaders of the Federation and of the national movements, should be constrained to exert ourselves with more earnestness than ever for their salvation.

The Federation stands not only for winning students to become disciples of Christ but also for building them up in faith and character. Therefore, it has always emphasized the great value of thorough, devotional Bible study. While the development of this part of the work of our movements has been gratifying, we have but begun to realize its possibilities. only about one in three of our student members engaged in systematic Bible study we must not be satisfied. thousand and more members of our movements who are still outside the circles should be led to undertake such study, and multitudes of students not yet members of the Associations Movements which do not should be drawn into Bible circles. yet have suitable courses of Bible study should be influenced to prepare them or to employ the courses which have been so successfully used among students of other lands. The highest efficiency of all our movements depends on the constant application of the Word of God to the daily life of the student Only in this way will the growth of our work be members. made intensive as well as extensive.

The Federation can render its largest service to the Church by throwing itself into the enterprise of the world's evangeliza-This is the greatest work in the world. It is the work To accomplish it, three things are for which the Church exists. necessary: First, an army of student volunteers must be raised up and trained in Christian lands, to go forth to the mission fields to lead the work; secondly, a still larger number of Christian students in the non-Christian lands must be influenced to devote their lives to the evangelization of their own people; and thirdly, the students who are called of God to stay at home must so inspire and lead the forces of the home Church that the enterprise at the front may be adequately maintained. Our student movements are in a position to do more than any other agencies to supply these three essential factors.

Federation, therefore, should seek in all ways to intensify, unify and guide the missionary spirit and purposes of all its branches. If the Christian students of the Orient and Occident, of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, are united in this inspiring and glorious undertaking, may we not reasonably expect that before the present generation shall have passed away, a knowledge of Christ will be made accessible to all people?

The largest regions beyond for all members of the Federation are in the realm of prayer. And it is the course of wisdom to seek first to enter these regions. There is no more direct way, in fact there is no other way, to overcome successfully the difficulties which confront us as we strive to enter the regions to which attention has been called, than by giving ourselves to intercession. If, as Christ has taught, there are benefits resulting from the union in prayer of two or three; if the greatest achievements in all our movements are traceable to united prayer, what marvelous triumphs of grace shall we not witness when the believing students all over the world with one accord wield the irresistible forces of the prayer kingdom; first, that Christ may be made King in the lives of the students themselves, and then, that His mighty and blessed sway may be extended over all nations and all peoples.

PUBLICATIONS

THE WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION. A 28-PAGE PAMPHLET CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF THE FEDERATION, AN ACCOUNT OF THE FEDERATION CONFERENCE AT WILLIAMSTOWN IN 1897, AND THE REPORT OF THE PROGRESS OF THE FEDERATION DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF ITS HISTORY (NAMELY, THE ACADEMIC YEARS, 1895-7). SINGLE COPIES, POSTPAID, 5 PENCE, 40 PFENNIGS, 50 CENTIMES, OR 10 CENTS GOLD, EACH. IN QUANTITIES OF ONE DOZEN OR MORE, POSTPAID, 2 SHILLINGS, 2 MARKS, 2 FRANCS AND 50 CENTIMES, OR 50 CENTS GOLD, PER DOZEN.

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