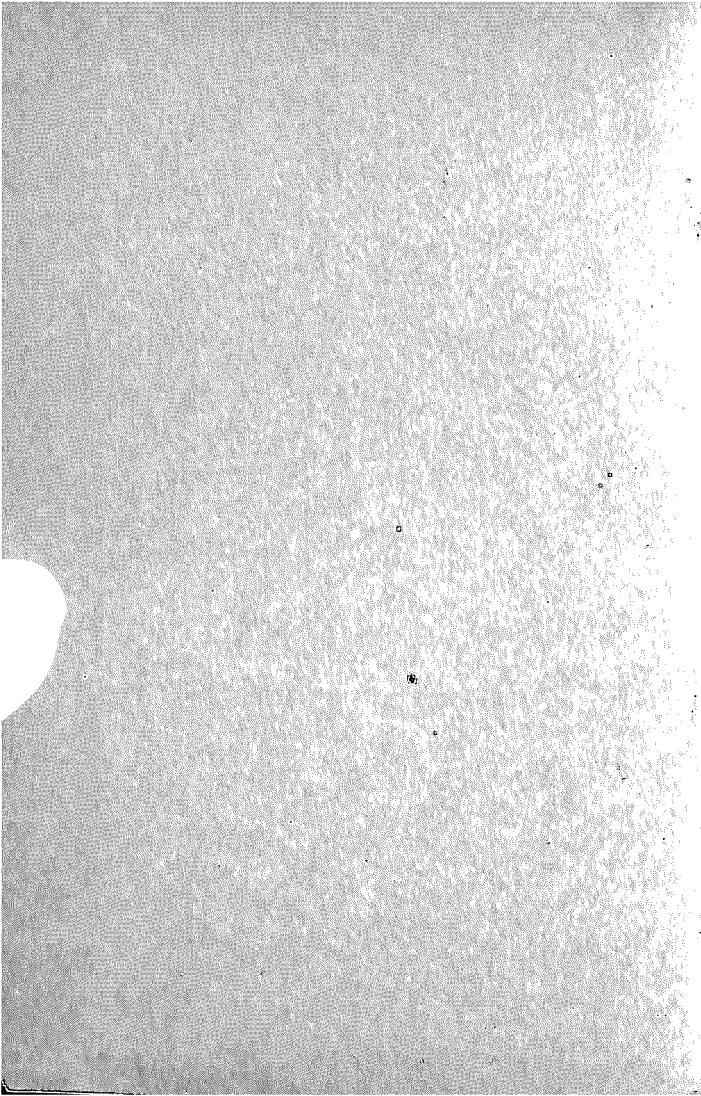


*Student Volunteer
Work*

THE
VOLUNTEER BAND

BY
D. WILLARD LYON

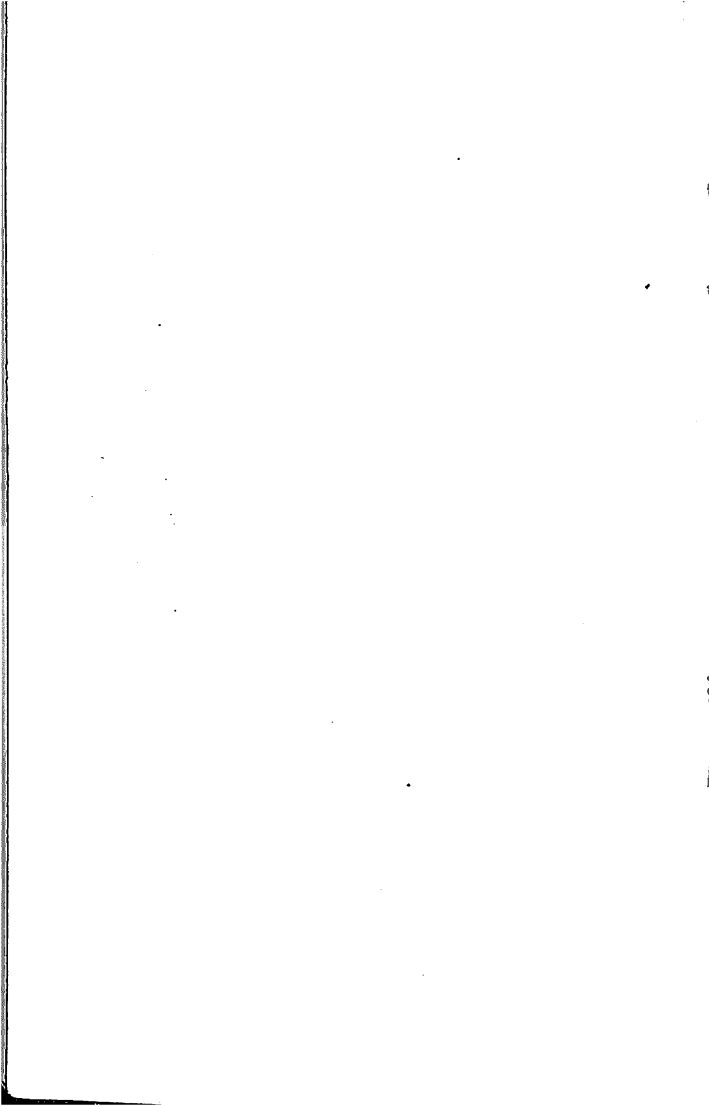


Student Volunteer Series, No. 4.

THE
VOLUNTEER BAND
FOR
FOREIGN MISSIONS

BY
D. WILLARD LYON

CHICAGO
Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign
Missions
1895

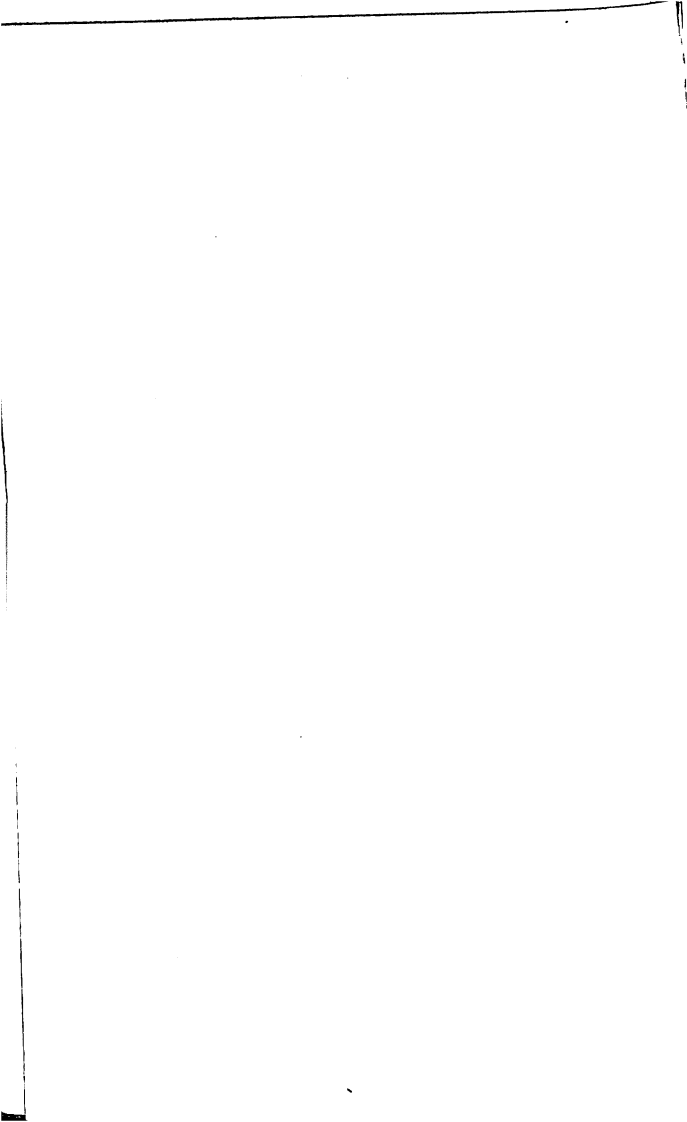


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THE VOLUNTEER BAND

for

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

I. WHY SHOULD VOLUNTEERS FORM THEMSELVES INTO A VOLUNTEER BAND.

I. Because of their Common Conditions.

1. They have a common purpose. Realizing the extreme obligation which rests upon the Church to disciple all the nations, they have set their faces definitely toward the task of carrying to those nations, which as yet have in no sense been disciplined, the glad tidings of eternal life through Jesus Christ. It is a closer bond of union than exists between those who have chosen any other common life work, for it means not only a common work, but it also implies common underlying principles and common motives. Ministerial students may unite, but their aims will be as varied as are their conceptions of the functions of a minister of the gospel. But when volunteers unite it is with one aim—the evangel-

ization of the world—so that whether they become educational, medical, industrial or strictly evangelistic missionaries, they go forth with the single purpose to make Christ known to those who know Him not. None the less intense than the tie which binds Christian students together in little bands with the single purpose of leading their non-Christian fellow students to Jesus, and certainly more enduring than this tie, is the bond which unites fellow students in the life task of carrying the knowledge of the Savior to those who have never heard His name.

2. A common preparation aside from the regular studies of the curriculum is needed for the work of the foreign missionary. The volunteers need to know what special preparation is necessary. They need to understand the relative importance of the different lines of preparation. They need to learn how to economize to the best advantage the time at their disposal for this preparation. In view of these needs and of the fact that there is practically no other way in which they may know these things, it is certainly

of great importance that they band themselves together to accomplish what otherwise will be poorly done, or left entirely undone.

3. The volunteers have a common task to accomplish before going to their fields abroad, viz., to awaken a missionary interest among their fellow students and fellow Christians at home. They owe it to their Lord to let their fellow students feel the same impulses which they feel, and understand the same truths which they understand, with reference to the reaching of the whole world for Christ. It also rests upon them so to awaken the Church that her members will come to the help of the Lord against the mighty by giving liberally of their money, and children, and prayers to the work of evangelizing the world. This common task suggests at once the added power which will come from uniting in the name of the Lord to accomplish it. Surely if any class of students is placed in conditions demanding association in work, it is the volunteers in any institution. This, however, is not the only reason for such association.

II. Because of the Results which will Follow such an Organization.

These may be summed up in four words:

1. Intensity. Each volunteer has the added impetus that comes from an association with others to accomplish a definite end. His own convictions are deepened by the united convictions of his fellow volunteers. His purpose is strengthened by stimulated thought and study along the lines of the fundamental principles in his life. His prayer life is made more real by the united prayer in the little circle of the Band. A burning coal is kept aglow by being placed among other burning coals. Alone, the volunteer's courage and purpose might die out; united with others, his interest is fanned into a flame. His whole life becomes more and more intensely absorbed with the one ambition to proclaim Christ where He has never been named, until his very intensity is contagious.

2. Thoroughness. If the Band is properly organized, the special preparation of the volunteer for his life-work will

thereby be made many-fold more thorough than would probably be the case if he were left to himself to plan for his own preparation. It is reasonable to suppose that the combined wisdom of several will be of greater value than the wisdom of any single individual. Moreover in the Band the experience, not only of the few members composing it, but of all the best Bands in the country will be available to each volunteer. The Band is in a position to reap the lessons from the experience of the whole Volunteer Movement, whereas the individual volunteer outside of a Band cannot, from the nature of the case, be possessed of the same lessons. We do not speak blindly when we predict that this point will obtain more and more, as the distinctive work of the Volunteer Band apart from the missionary class is better apprehended. The Volunteer Bands will increasingly emphasize the matter of thorough and specific preparation on the part of all the volunteers for their great life-work.

3. Efficiency. The work of the volunteers in awakening and maintaining a mis-

sionary interest in college depends for its efficiency very largely upon unity. The different lines of work will be pushed to definite results more surely when the volunteers are united in their plans and operations. The Church will receive a stronger impression from the united strokes of many volunteers than from the separate blows of individuals. Is not prayer, too, made more efficient when it is united? Recall the special promises which the Master gave regarding the prayers of two or three who would agree in their requests.

4. Aggressiveness. An army can accomplish bold plans which its soldiers without union would not dare to attempt. There are well fortified anti-missionary citadels to be captured; it is not sufficient that the volunteers be efficient in the work that they attempt; they must enlarge the work itself. Such aggressiveness can be secured through organization alone. To fail to organize the volunteers in an institution into a Band for aggressive work is to spurn one of the greatest opportunities for advancing the missionary cause which will ever come to these volunteers. It is ours

not to stand still and defend ourselves, but to advance in solid phalanx and make attacks upon the lethargy and indifference of many of our fellow Christians.

III. Because of what the Experience of the past Years has Taught.

1. Where the volunteers in an institution have remained separate and unorganized, their own interest has usually waned, the missionary spirit of the students as a whole has usually decreased, the volunteers have become the object of much criticism, and practically no recruits have been enlisted.

2. Where the private life of the Volunteer Band has been absorbed by the interest in the missionary class, the aggressive lines of work which naturally fall to the Band alone have been sadly neglected. Experience proves without a question that the Volunteer Band must exist as such, and that no amount of missionary work in other lines can take its place. The formation of a missionary class, which volunteers and non-volunteers attend, increases rather than diminishes the reason

for a Volunteer Band, for the danger that the volunteers will forget their special mission in college is greatly increased thereby.

II. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VOLUNTEER BAND.

I. Membership.

The basis of membership in the Volunteer Band is the Volunteer Declaration. Every one who has signed this declaration, viz.: "It is my purpose, if God permit, to become a foreign missionary," is thereby eligible to membership. Although the Band may invite those who are not volunteers to attend its meetings, yet it can not include such on its roll.

There is no such thing as "associate membership" in the Volunteer Band. If there were, every true Christian in college would become an associate member; for such membership could go no further than to imply an active interest in missions, which would include every true follower of Jesus Christ. Moreover, if there were an associate membership, the unity of the work of the Band would be destroyed. The volunteer's interests could not be dis-

cussed or prayed over with the same freedom in a mixed meeting as in a meeting where only volunteers were present. Associate membership in the Volunteer Band is as much out of the question as associate membership in a personal workers' class. In addition, there is less reason now for associate membership than there was before the missionary class was organized. Then, it seemed wise to bring those who were not volunteers into the Volunteer Band meetings in order to interest them more thoroughly in missions. Now, this interest can be awakened through the agency of the missionary class.

Hindered volunteers, however, should be as true and faithful members of the Band as those who are not hindered. It will usually be so (except where Providential reasons prevent regular attendance), if these volunteers were truly sincere in signing the declaration, and if they have been clearly hindered by God and not by self or Satan. (The reader is here referred to the pamphlet entitled "The Volunteer Declaration," published by the Volunteer Movement.)

Let a word be said here about faithfulness on the part of the volunteer in attending the meetings of the Band. It should be one of the very last meetings that he is willing to omit; the Volunteer Band is one of the most sacred associations in his college life. In fact, if it is a choice between Sunday school, or young people's meeting, and the Volunteer Band meeting, he owes it to his life-purpose, and to his future efficiency in his life-work, to attend the Volunteer Band meeting at the expense of the others, if necessary.

II. Officers.

1. A Leader, whose work it is to appoint the committees in the Band and to keep them at work; to perform the duties usually devolving upon the president of an organization; to see that all members of the Band have something definite to do, and to foster the relationships of the Band with the college Associations and with the Volunteer Movement.

2. A Secretary. In his capacity of Recording Secretary, he should have charge of keeping all the records of the Band; in

his capacity of Corresponding Secretary, he should put into execution all plans for correspondence with absent volunteers, volunteers on the field, and with the Volunteer Movement. (For an explanation of these two lines of work see Section XV.) In the larger Bands it may be necessary to have two secretaries to carry out these two lines of work.

III. Committees.

1. Vital Committees :

a. Band Meeting Committee. This committee should arrange for the regular meetings of the Band. (See Section VII.) It should endeavor to foster the spiritual life of the volunteers individually, by introducing the Prayer Cycle of the Volunteer Movement, and in any other practicable way. It will be its duty, also, to cooperate with the missionary committees of the Associations in organizing and promoting the work of the missionary class.

b. Recruit Committee. This corresponds with the membership committee in other organizations. Its duties are two-fold : (1) To plan aggressive measures by

which students will be brought to face personally the question as to whether they ought not to give their lives to foreign missionary work. (2) To guard carefully the signature of the declaration card on the part of any student, making sure that he understands the step which he is taking when he signs it.

c. Missionary Literature Committee. This committee should secure and circulate through the volunteers such missionary booklets and tracts as may help to awaken deeper thought on missions among the other students. It should get the missionary library into wider circulation, and increase its size if the missionary committee of the Association does not do this. It should secure subscriptions to *The Student Volunteer*, and to other missionary magazines. It should also furnish such tracts and leaflets as can be used to advantage by the church visitation committee. (See Sections XI and XVII.)

2. Other Possible Committees :

a. Map and Chart Committee. Where there are a sufficient number of volunteers, a very valuable service can be rendered to the

Band by a committee whose duty it will be to make missionary maps and charts. If many cannot be made by the committee, it can do a good service by investigating the matter of what charts and maps are published, and at what prices they are available. (See Section XII.)

b. Church Visitation Committee. The work of this committee is to secure opportunities for the members of the Band to present the claims of missions before churches and young peoples' societies, with a view to an enlargement of their contributions towards the support of foreign missions. (See Section XVII.)

c. Museum Committee. Wherever this committee exists, its work is to gather, and put in a suitable place, a collection of interesting and instructive articles illustrating the life and thought of the inhabitants of heathen lands. (See Section XIII.)

d. Convention or Summer School Committee. The duty of this committee is to co-operate with the summer school committees of the college Associations in making possible a good representation of the Volunteer Band at the Student Sum-

mer Schools; and in the year in which the International Convention of the Volunteer Movement is held, to provide for the sending of delegates to this most important gathering. (See Section XVI.) This committee need not be appointed until about three months before the convention, or summer schools.

e. **Special Committees.** Other committees will need to be appointed at times when any special work may demand it. No opportunity should be lost simply because there is no regular committee whose work it is to seize that opportunity; let a special committee be at once appointed, or let the work be specially delegated to one of the regular committees.

III. HOW FORM A VOLUNTEER BAND.

1. When should a Volunteer Band be Formed in an Institution?

As soon as there are as many as two volunteers. All the distinctive lines of work that fall to a Volunteer Band can be effectively put into operation by even only two volunteers, and it is only by thus uniting that they can hope to become greater

in number. Even where there is but one volunteer, he should set himself to prayer and work to enlist if possible another volunteer so that a Band may be formed.

II. Suggestions with Reference to the Formation of a Volunteer Band.

(1) Gather all the volunteers together to discuss the organization of the Band. (2) After a season of prayer, let sections I-VI of this pamphlet be read aloud. (3) This should then be followed by a prayerful discussion as to whether a Band should be formed. (4) After a vote has been taken, a leader should be elected, and, if the size of the Band warrants it, a secretary. (5) Then let section VIII of this pamphlet be read, and a regular time of meeting be chosen. (6) A Band meeting committee should be appointed to arrange for the meetings of the Band. (See section IX.) The recruit committee can be appointed later. (7) The election of officers should at once be reported to the Presidents of the College Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, for their ratification. (See section

IV.) (8) The same facts should be reported to the office of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, so that the Band may be enrolled on the official list as a regularly organized Band.

IV. THE RELATIONSHIPS OF THE VOLUNTEER BAND.

1. To the College Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations. Where these organizations exist the Volunteer Band should form an organic part of the Associations.

a. Reasons for this. It will be of manifest advantage to the Band to become allied with organizations which are more nearly permanent than itself. This makes more certain the continuance of the Band in days of great discouragement. The missionary committee will feel an active interest in, and responsibility for the Band's existence and efficiency, and will thus seek to promote its interests. The Band will have the use of the organization of the Associations for furthering its enterprises, and will have a wider field of work and influence. For further reasons see

“The Missionary Department of the College Association,” by John R. Mott.

b. How to effect this organic relationship. The Band should definitely vote to become a part of the Christian Association or Associations in the institution. The election of the leader of the Band should be subject to the ratification of the Presidents of the Associations. The work of the Band should be reported officially and regularly to the missionary committees of the Associations, who in turn should incorporate these reports in their reports to the Associations. The Volunteer Band should also co-operate with the missionary committees in pushing aggressive lines of missionary work in the institution.

2. To the Missionary Society in Theological Seminaries. Here, as in the former case, the relationship should be intimate and organic, where possible. If the Missionary Society in the individual seminary represents the largest missionary interests of the students, the Volunteer Band should become affiliated as a department of the Missionary Society, for the same reasons which obtain for a like affiliation

of the Band in a college with the College Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations.

3. To the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions. Here the union is naturally vital. The Volunteer Movement depends for its life upon the Volunteer Bands. In order that the relationship may be mutually more helpful, the Band should seek to keep the Movement informed of its work by frequent correspondence and by regular annual reports, and in turn should know of the work of the Movement by being represented at all of its conventions, and by reading *The Student Volunteer* and the annual reports of the Executive Committee of the Movement.

V. THE PURPOSE OF THE VOLUNTEER BAND.

The general purpose of the Band's existence is, of course, fellowship in the one aim of realizing, if possible, the watch-cry of the movement: "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation." There are,

however, three specific ways in which this fellowship should manifest itself.

1. The first line is suggested by recalling what the first Volunteer Band did. Before the Twelve Apostles were sent forth to evangelize the cities of Palestine, it was commanded by their Leader that they should pray. This is the prime object of the Volunteer Band—fellowship in prayer. What band of believers has greater requests to make of God? Prayer for a missionary awakening among their fellow-students, and for guidance in promoting such an awakening; prayer for men and women who will give their lives to foreign missions; prayer for the volunteers that they may be guided aright in their preparation, and above all that they may become Spirit-filled volunteers; prayer for the hindered volunteers, that the obstacles which stand in the way of their going may be removed, if it is God's will; prayer for weak volunteers, that their faith and purpose may not fail them; prayer for those that are ready to go that they may use every right means to get to the field; prayer for the Band meetings, that they

may be so planned as to please the Father; prayer for all the work of the Band, that nothing may be undertaken which the Lord will not own and bless; prayer for the different unevangelized fields, that they may be speedily evangelized; prayer for the missionaries and for volunteers in other lands. What faith-inspiring objects of prayer are these! Surely the Volunteer Band will find its supreme mission in learning to pray. The Cycle of Prayer of the Student Volunteer Movement will prove very suggestive to the Bands as they seek to plan for their prayer life.

2. A second specific purpose of the Volunteer Band is fellowship in aggressive work for missions before going to the field. The chief responsibility of the members of the Band in this line is with reference to their fellow students. They have an unparalleled opportunity here, for their fellow students are soon to be men of influence in the Church. If college students can be won to an active sympathy and co-operation in advancing the cause of missions, their influence will soon be felt in the awakening of a deeper missionary

interest in the Church at large. Bands that realize and improve this opportunity are dealing no longer in addition, but in multiplication. The influences which they set in motion are not limited in their effect to the walls of college or theological seminary; they go on forever. So, too, the Band has the opportunity of helping men and women to decide to give their lives to the foreign mission service. Perhaps the members of the Band may accomplish in this single line as much for foreign missions in the few years of college or seminary life, as they will be able to do in a life-time of actual service on the foreign field. Outside of college, also, the Band may make its convictions felt. Who can plead with a church to give of its means to carry the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth with greater force than the one who has already given his life to go to these neglected fields? Truly the volunteer has in the very fact that he is a volunteer a talent which God has entrusted to him to invest for the advancement of His kingdom. Shall the talent be folded in a napkin un-

til the volunteer reaches the foreign field?

3. Another definite object of the Band is fellowship on the part of volunteers in preparation for their life-work. This it seeks to do by educating them in the needs, methods, qualifications, and demands of missionary service, and in the fundamental principles of Scriptural evangelization, and by furnishing them opportunities for practical training along the essential lines of preparation.

VI. THE WORK OF THE VOLUNTEER BAND.

I. Work Distinctly its Own.

It is assumed that there is in the institution some such organization as the College Young Men's Christian Association, which has a missionary committee to carry out certain lines of missionary work. In order then to avoid confusion or overlapping in the efforts of the Band and the missionary committee, the Volunteer Band should understand very clearly for what lines of work it stands peculiarly responsible. These are as follows:

- (1) The Volunteer Band Meeting.

(2) Enlisting New Volunteers. (3) Band Records. (4) Representation at the Conventions of the Volunteer Movement and at the Student Summer Schools. (5) Church Visitation. (6) Circulation of Missionary Literature.

II. Other Lines of Work.

There are other lines of work which most naturally fall to the charge of the missionary committee, in promoting which, however, the Band should heartily and actively co-operate. In some cases the missionary committee will delegate one or more of these lines of work to the Volunteer Band. If the missionary committee should fail to push any of them, the Band should take them up:

(1) The Missionary Class. (2) The Missionary Library. (3) The Monthly Missionary Meeting. (4) The Missionary Museum. (5) Missionary Maps and Charts.

VII. THE VOLUNTEER BAND MEETING.

A Band can hardly be said to exist unless it has meetings, and yet it seems necessary because of certain conditions which

have appeared in a number of institutions to urge the importance of the Volunteer Band meeting. Some, because of a mistaken or limited conception of the mission of the Band, have permitted its meetings to become merged into those of the missionary class. Others have plead the excuse of too many other meetings and have ceased the holding of distinctively Band meetings on that account. After what has been already said in this pamphlet, need it be reiterated that the Band has a peculiar mission to perform, and that it cannot perform this mission without regular Band meetings? There is scarcely another religious meeting in college or seminary which has more right to claim the time of the volunteer than the meeting of the Volunteer Band.

As to the frequency and length of the meetings local conditions must determine. However, it can be stated as a safe general rule that the Volunteer Band should meet weekly for at least a half hour. It will usually be easier to form the habit of meeting every week at some regular time, than to become accustomed to a bi-weekly meet-

ing. Moreover, absolute promptness should be urged. Tardiness is a sin. At the exact time set for the opening of the meeting, every volunteer should be in his place. If he is late he wastes time not only for himself but for every member of the Band. If there are twelve members of the Band and one by being late, delays the meeting five minutes, he thereby wastes five minutes multiplied by twelve, or a whole hour of time. If the Band meeting begins and closes on time, it will be perfectly possible to meet every week.

Since the work of general missionary study is best undertaken by the volunteers by joining the missionary class, the time in the Volunteer Band meetings may be devoted more exclusively to prayer, planning aggressive work, and special preparation for the foreign field. A model series of topics for a year is suggested in the appendix to this pamphlet.

A few hints as to the conduct of the Band meetings may here be given: a. The band meeting committee should take pains to notify those who are to have charge of the meetings at least two weeks

in advance, so that careful preparation may be made by them for the meetings. b. The meetings should be as informal as possible. c. The devotional element should not be crowded into the background. The Band meeting should be pre-eminently a place of prayer. As Mr. Speer used to put it: "Each Band should be an infant class, and all these infant classes should form an infant school, and sit down before Him who is the Great Teacher of prayer. Here in the school of prayer we must learn to pray, for we know not how to pray as we ought."

VIII. THE MISSIONARY CLASS.

Usually the missionary committee should have the direct supervision of the missionary class. It is of manifest advantage that this should be the case, for the membership of the missionary class should by no means be limited to volunteers. On the other hand, it should include many of those who expect to be ministers of the gospel in America, and also of those who expect simply to be lay workers in the Church at home. True, no volunteer

should be excused from taking the work of the missionary class; but, for the sake of enlisting more who are not volunteers in the systematic study of missions, it will usually be well to have the class placed under the control of the missionary committee.

The organization of the missionary class will be very much like that of a Bible class. A leader, chosen by the missionary committee, and, where possible, trained for the work at one of the summer schools, will guide the study of the class week by week.

The courses of study taken up by the missionary class should be those provided by the educational department of the Student Volunteer Movement, and published in *The Student Volunteer*. In connection with these courses the leader of the class will have the benefit of receiving special suggestions on each lesson from the Educational Secretary of the Movement. He may also receive advice about any special difficulties which may arise in the work of the class under his care. In return he will be expected to make a weekly report of

the work of his class to the Educational Secretary. Further suggestions regarding the missionary class will be found in the pamphlet entitled "The Missionary Department of the College Association," by John R. Mott.

IX. THE MONTHLY MISSIONARY MEETING,

It being the office of the regular missionary committees of the college Associations to arrange for the monthly missionary meetings, the reader is referred for a detailed discussion of the plans for these meetings to Mr. Mott's "The Missionary Department of the College Association." It will be in place here, however, to indicate a few ways in which the Volunteer Band may co-operate with the missionary committees in bringing about the greatest results.

1. The Volunteer Band should not fail to make the monthly missionary meeting an object of special and frequent prayer. Much of the missionary life of an institution depends upon these general missionary meetings. They touch a class of stu-

dents whose interest can be enlisted in no other way. They also do much to maintain and deepen the missionary spirit of those who are already more or less interested. They are the feeders to the Band. Let not the volunteers cease to pray faithfully for these meetings.

2. When any member of the Band is asked to take part in the monthly missionary meeting, he should not shirk the duty nor slight it. He should prepare for it as if some one's life depended on that one meeting, as, indeed, must often be the case.

3. The Band should find out in ample time before the meeting is held what the theme will be, in order that each volunteer may look up a few interesting facts in connection with the topic. Thus, if there happens to be a gap in the meeting, there will be some who will be ready to step into the breach.

4. Through its missionary literature committee the Volunteer Band may arrange at times to have a leaflet appropriate to the topic circulated among those present at the meeting. Or it may push the

circulation of an appropriate and stirring pamphlet by personal effort on the part of a number of the members of the Band during the few days immediately succeeding the meeting. For example, after a meeting on "Principles and Helps in Deciding on Life Work," the missionary literature committee would do well to circulate wisely a number of copies of Mr. Eddy's pamphlet on "The Supreme Decision of the Christian Student." (Student Volunteer Series No. 10.)

5. If there be a map and chart committee in the Band, it can co-operate most effectively with the missionary committees of the Associations in providing a striking or suitable map or chart for each missionary meeting. A monthly appeal will thus be made through the eye, as well as through the ear, to the hearts of the students.

X. THE MISSIONARY LIBRARY.

The importance of an adequate missionary library accessible to the students, as a means for maintaining the missionary interest in an institution, cannot be over-esti-

mated. Zeal without knowledge will soon evaporate. Missionary information lies at the basis of true missionary inspiration. The success of the monthly missionary meeting of the Association, the missionary class, and the Volunteer Band depends largely upon the character and completeness of the missionary library.

In some institutions the sad mistake has been made of letting one purchase of missionary books last for several years without further additions. Every missionary library should be a growing one. A new supply of books should be added each year. This will be necessary, not only because of the growing demands of the students for more literature along special lines, but also because of the fast increasing literature of missions. To keep abreast of the development of missionary literature, every missionary library must make provision for a constant growth.

For the reason that the missionary library touches so vitally two of the chief lines of work of the missionary committee (the monthly missionary meeting and the missionary class,) it should be one of the

regular duties of this committee to provide for the expansion of the library. If, after the missionary committee is reminded of this part of its work, it fails to accomplish it, the Volunteer Band should see to it that the matter is not neglected, and that the year does not go by without an advance being made.

After a missionary library has been secured, the most important and vital question is how to promote its use. The following suggestions may prove helpful on this point.

1. The missionary alcove should be placed in an accessible and inviting situation where the students cannot but be attracted by it. If the alcove is not connected with the regular college library, or if there is no regular librarian in charge, a special librarian, well-informed and interested in the circulation of the books, should be chosen to take charge at certain hours.

2. The missionary committee, or the Volunteer Band, would do well to appoint a sub-committee to see that the books are kept in circulation. This special commit-

tee would mark certain portions of certain books and hand them to individuals to be read. It would probably post a special bulletin each week in a conspicuous place announcing articles in magazines or chapters in books of special interest. It might also take charge of one of the first missionary meetings of the year in which to present the scope and value of the missionary library. At some time in the year it might provide for a missionary book social where the best books would be exhibited and reviewed. In fact such a committee would find almost unlimited opportunities for promoting the reading of missionary books. What better service could be rendered by those who perhaps otherwise would be silent members of the missionary committee, or of the Volunteer Band?

The whole matter of the missionary library is presented in the pamphlet entitled "The Missionary Department of the College Association," by John R. Mott. Such topics as "Its Importance," "Where the Alcove should be Located," "What the Alcove should Include," "How to Secure the Alcove," "How to Promote the Use of

Missionary Literature," are discussed very fully.

XI. OTHER MISSIONARY LITERATURE.

I. Missionary Magazines.

There are certain magazines which should be accessible to the volunteers in every Band. No Band should be without *The Student Volunteer*; in fact, every volunteer should personally be a subscriber for this magazine, which is devoted entirely to the interests that lie nearest his heart. Every Band should also have accessible *The Missionary Review of the World*, and the missionary magazine of the particular denomination to which the majority of the volunteers in the Band belong. If these three magazines do not come to the reading room, the Volunteer Band should in some way raise the money necessary to place them there, that they may be within the reach of all.

In most institutions it will also be possible and very desirable that a number of other missionary magazines be placed in the reading room. These should include the leading denominational missionary

magazines of America and several from Great Britain. A list of the American missionary magazines will be found in Mr. Mott's "The Missionary Department of the College Association." Names of the leading British magazines can be secured by correspondence with the office of the Student Volunteer Movement.

II. Missionary Booklets.

There are a number of very valuable missionary booklets published ranging in price from ten cents to thirty cents each. These will often be read by those who will not take the time to read larger books. At least one Band has found that a careful and wide circulation of these booklets will lead many to take an active interest in missions who previously have shown no interest.

III. Missionary Leaflets and Tracts.

These will be found of great value for a wider circulation than is possible with books or booklets. In some places the plan has been successfully carried out of distributing a supply of leaflets appropriate to the topic considered, at the close

of a general missionary meeting. They will also be found to be of value in connection with missionary speaking in churches and young people's meetings. A list of the best of these leaflets and tracts will also be found in the new catalogue of the book department of the Movement.

XII. MISSIONARY MAPS AND CHARTS.

I. Their Value.

1. They are one of the most effective means of first awakening an interest in foreign missions. Impressions may often be made through the eye, when the ear is practically inaccessible.

2. The impressions thus made are likely to be more definite and accurate than those resulting from a missionary speech.

3. Lessons learned from the map or chart are usually remembered longer than those learned in any other way. The impression is more lasting.

II. Suggestions.

1. Read the articles printed in *The Student Volunteer* on this subject, (March, 1893; April, 1893; February, 1894; January, 1895; April, 1895.)

2. Secure a copy of "The Missionary Pastor," by James Edward Adams, which contains illustrations of over fifty missionary charts. (Price at S. V. M. office 75 cents.)

3. If possible, secure a room somewhere to which the members of the map and chart committee may go at any time to work, and where material may be safely left without fear of being disturbed.

XIII. THE MISSIONARY MUSEUM.

1. The object of the missionary museum is to gather together everything possible which will illustrate the life, thought, and needs of the inhabitants of mission fields, with the purpose in view of stimulating through them a deeper interest in the work of evangelizing those lands.

2. The practical utility will be varied:

a. If placed where it will often be seen it will in itself make a silent appeal for the lands which lie in darkness.

b. Often times it will prove of service to the general missionary meetings, where articles from the museum enforcing or illustrating the topic of the meeting may be

exhibited with much effect.

c. To the missionary class also the museum will frequently be of value in illustrating the studies on the different fields or religions.

d. The volunteers themselves will be greatly helped by it to understand the character of the peoples among whom they expect to work.

e. Those who take part in the work of church visitation will also find that certain articles from the missionary museum will greatly help them in their missionary addresses.

f. An occasional missionary social can be made very interesting by the display of different articles from the museum.

3. If the museum is placed where it will be properly cared for, missionaries and natives from the different lands may be found who will gladly contribute articles to it. Correspondence or a personal interview will lay the matter in such a way before those who have the articles to donate that there will be little difficulty in securing from time to time exceedingly interesting and valuable additions to the museum.

XIV. ENLISTING NEW VOLUNTEERS.

The real vitality of the Band depends upon its work in this line, just as the vitality of a class in personal work depends on the doing of personal work. True convictions are contagious. If others are not "catching" the missionary spirit from the volunteers, there must be something wrong about their convictions.

We owe it to our fellow students to give them all the light which has been given us for the decision of the great question of their life-work. If God has given it to us to see His plan a little more clearly than to many others, we dare not hide this light under a bushel. It was given us to be let shine, not to be concealed.

We also owe it to those who sit in the darkness of the unevangelized lands to do all we can to get many more to hasten forth to carry them the light of the gospel. Were we only to apply the Golden Rule, we, as volunteers, would be constantly seeking to enlist other volunteers in this mighty work.

Surely, too, we owe it to our Lord to do

all we can to lead other men to feel a burden for the heathen world ; else, what does the Great Commission mean to us? Or, how can we consistently pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest, when we are not willing to be the instruments in His hands to answer our own prayers?

Let the volunteers reflect also on the thought that in all probability, unless they enlist their fellow students in this great work, no one else will do it. There is no other force within the college so potent as the Volunteer Band to do this work of recruiting. Let not the opportunity be lost.

For suggestions as to the method of doing the work of enlisting new volunteers, reference should be made to the pamphlet entitled "The Volunteer Declaration." (Student Volunteer Series No. 7.)

XV. VOLUNTEER BAND CORRESPONDENCE AND RECORDS.

I. Necessity and Value.

The *importance* of this work has been greatly and widely under-estimated

1. Correspondence with volunteers out of school is necessary for three reasons:

- a. The period of teaching or graduate work is often a most critical one for volunteers. When separated from their fellow volunteers they are more apt to grow cold in their missionary interest. The Band is the only agency that can keep in close touch with such volunteers. By a wise and sympathetic correspondence the Band may be able to keep many a volunteer from falling out by the way.
- b. For the sake of prayer for each other, the past and present volunteers of an institution should know of each other's work and difficulties.
- c. No complete or satisfactory records of the life of the volunteer can be kept unless by correspondence his whereabouts are accurately known.

2. The importance of records will be seen from a consideration of their value along the following lines:

- a. To those corresponded with. Notes kept of correspondence make future letters progressive in thought and therefore truly helpful.
- b. To the Band. Notes of past correspondence will help and stimulate future

Band secretaries. Any future criticism of a volunteer's action may often be disarmed by the exact record kept of him while in and beyond the institution. Letters from sailed volunteers will often be of great value to members of the Band who may be studying those particular fields to which these volunteers have gone. c. To the office of the Volunteer Movement. In order to reach its greatest efficiency the office must have accurate facts about each volunteer. This will only be possible to the extent that the Bands are faithful in preserving like records, which will form the basis for the annual reports made to the Movement. d. To the Boards. The Band furnishing a careful record of a volunteer during his full preparation will give unique and hitherto unattainable information to the Boards. This it owes them.

II. Who Should Conduct the Correspondence and Keep the Records?

Naturally this would fall to the secretary of the Band. In case the Band is a large one, and the task too great for one person, a small correspondence committee should

be appointed to assist the secretary in carrying out the work.

III. Necessary Supplies.

1. A box letter file: "Ideal," "Chicago," "Eureka," "G. E. M.," or like make, can be gotten of any stationer for about thirty-five cents.

2. A Volunteer Record Book: A well bound blank book, about eight by ten inches, for keeping a record of the volunteers individually, with enough pages to last ten years. Allow a few pages at the beginning of the book for an alphabetical index.

3. A Band Record Book: This should be a blank book uniform in size with the volunteer record book, to be used as a place in which to preserve the minutes of the Band meetings and brief records of the work done by the Band as a whole. At the end of the college year a tabulated summary of the records in the two books should be made, so that the work of the Band for the year may be easily seen at a glance.

4. A Scrapbook: In this should be

kept a copy of every list of questions sent out to the volunteers, and also a copy of every piece of printed matter issued by the Band.

IV. Method in Detail.

Suppose a Band has kept no records, what should it do?

1. Search out the addresses of volunteers still in this country. In the first letter to them enclose a declaration card, and find out the present position by asking:

a. Class in institution. b. Date of signing declaration and denomination. c. Did signing mean a firm purpose to go unless God should prevent? d. If hindered, are you trying to remove the obstacle, and does success seem probable? e. Work engaged in now? f. What active work for missions? g. Plans for future? Send a second letter if reply is not received in a reasonable time. Then file the answers and arrange the Volunteer Record Book as follows:

A. Two facing pages to each volunteer in institution. At top of left page enter name, class, home address, denomination and date of signing declaration.

B. A page to each volunteer out of school still purposing and planning to go. Enter at the top as in A.

C. Allow a page to each sailed volunteer.

D. At the top of each one of the next pages enter name, class, home and present address, denomination, date of signing, of those who have ceased to plan to go to the field, but who express a strong desire to be kept in touch with the Movement. Such persons should form a very valuable constituency if rightly educated.

E. In the last pages enter the names of those who are entirely out of touch with the Movement and wish to remain so. With name enter address, dates of letter and answer, and a word showing position. They are done with.

2. Write volunteers under C and D once a year. Send news of advance steps of the Movement and in missionary interests in the institution. Speak of the mission study courses, send a Prayer Cycle, suggest or donate a subscription to *The Student Volunteer*. Enter under respec-

tive names, dates of letters and answer, address, interesting items.

3. Write volunteers under B each fall and spring. The letter, as well as writing an answer, will be to them an incentive to better work the next half year. Each time ask for record something like this: a. missionary books read; b. missionary talks given and money raised; c. personal work for (a) souls, (b) volunteers. Ask additional questions at option. For the more isolated volunteers treat topics as under 2. Do everything to bring all into sympathetic relation.

4. Record the work of the volunteers in school as under 3, asking the questions fall and spring. After the first entry of a graduating volunteer enter next year's address.

5. After completing the investigation, results should be reported to the office of the Movement in such detail as may aid in completing the records there.

6. Draw up a careful report of the year's work of the Band and enter it in the Band Record Book.

XVI. REPRESENTATION AT VOLUNTEER CONVENTIONS AND STUDENT SUMMER SCHOOLS.

The great International Conventions of the Student Volunteer Movement occur once in three years. The first one was held at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1891; the second at Detroit, Mich., in 1894. The object of these Conventions is to bring together the representatives of the missionary organizations of all the colleges, theological seminaries and medical schools, the leaders of the missionary societies of North America, and prominent missionaries of foreign lands, to consider the great question of speedy and world-wide evangelization. The tremendous power of these meetings, because of the Holy Spirit's manifest presence as shown by the results which have followed both of those already held, proves conclusively that no Band, however remote from the place of meeting, can afford not to be well represented at these conventions whenever they are held. Plans should be laid months in advance in order to ensure that the persons who ought to represent the

Band be the ones who shall without fail attend the gathering.

But it is impossible at one of those large conventions, in the brief amount of time at the disposal of the convention, to accomplish all that might be desired in the way of training personally the leaders and workers in the Volunteer Bands for the great work which is committed to them. An opportunity for such training has been provided in the Missionary Institutes of the Student Summer Schools held in Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Tennessee each summer. It is absolutely essential to the greatest efficiency of the Volunteer Band that at least its leader for the coming year be sent to one of these summer schools. This is pre-eminently true in the Band where everything depends upon wise and efficient leadership. The volunteers can well afford to make personal sacrifices, if necessary, in order to secure for their leader the best possible training for his important task of guiding the work of the Band for a year.

XVII. CHURCH VISITATION.

I. Reasons for the Visitation of Churches and Young People's Societies by Volunteers.

1. It is the duty of the Church to evangelize the world.

2. The Church is not living up to her full duty in this regard, and therefore needs to be constantly reminded of this her larger work.

3. The volunteer, possessed of the necessary convictions and facts, can do much to awaken the Church to do what she has been commissioned to do, but has left undone. The volunteer can speak with special power because he himself expects to give his whole life to the work for which he is pleading.

4. No volunteer can accept the statement that his Board is not able financially to send him out to the field as a valid reason for his staying at home. From the fact that he has a clearer perception of the duty of evangelizing the world than many of his fellow Christians, he is by duty bound to carry his message to them and to awaken in them, if possible, the same in-

terest which has been awakened in him. In this way he should strive to be the means of increasing the contributions to his Board sufficiently to cover all the expenses connected with his work on the foreign field, which will usually be more than double the amount of his actual salary.

II. How to Secure and Improve Opportunities.

1. Get written recommendations from one or two leading professors and from a leading pastor. These can be used to great advantage in correspondence or in personal interviews with the pastors of these churches which the Band desires to enter.
2. Interview personally or correspond with all the pastors and presidents of young people societies within an accessible distance. State plainly and concisely the objects of the desired visitation. Ask no remuneration, other than the payment of actual expenses incurred.
3. Often it will be wisest for the volunteers to limit their visitation largely to the young people's societies, leaving the churches to be visited by returned missionaries or Board secretaries.

4. Usually the volunteers should go two by two in this visitation. Thus one will be able to supplement the work of the other.

5. Definite plans should be suggested to each young people's society or church visited, as to the way in which it may place its giving to missions on an enlarged and systematic basis. The matter should be left in charge of a thoroughly interested local committee, that will keep the question properly and constantly before the people.

6. The church visitation committee should follow up the work begun by the speaker by corresponding from time to time with the special committees which may have been appointed in the churches. To this end it will be necessary for the church visitation committee to keep full records of the work accomplished in each visit, and also of the correspondence which may be carried on with the special committees in the churches. In this way each successive visitation committee may intelligently follow up the work begun by its predecessor.

XVIII. THE VOLUNTEER IN HIS VACA- TION.

I. Importance of Using the Vacation Well.

1. There are many things, besides what he can get in his regular course of study, which it would be of great advantage to the volunteer to learn before he starts for his life field. He needs, therefore, to employ his vacation times with his great life-work in view.

2. The fact that his opportunities for such special preparation are limited in number is an additional reason for the greatest economy in the use of the few seasons that are at his disposal.

3. Not only in his own special preparation, but in enlisting the interest and co-operation of churches in the work of reaching the heathen world, must he employ his vacation seasons to the best advantage possible.

II. What he can do in his Vacation to Prepare Him- self Better for his Life-work.

1. Physical preparation. A well-known missionary writes: "A good physique is more helpful in foreign lands than in

America, and is absolutely essential in some fields. To get strong and to keep strong are therefore Christian duties as truly as to be strong in the Lord."

2. Practical preparation. On this point read very carefully the Report of the Detroit Convention, pages 26-31.

3. Study of field and Missionary Board. No volunteer ought to go out without knowing his own Board thoroughly and studying the field to which he is to go. Let him secure a copy of the manual for missionary candidates published by his Board.

4. Biblical preparation. The Bible is to become the weapon of warfare for the volunteer. He will meet the representatives of pagan religions who know their books from cover to cover. It will be to his shame if he does not know his in a very practical way. To this end he should be a specialist in the Bible study department of his college Association, and should follow out similar plans of study during the summer.

5. Training in work for souls. He who is not a personal worker at home has no

assurance that he will be such abroad. Actual participation in work for the salvation of others will be the very best kind of a training that the volunteer can have. Souls have the same nature and difficulties in America as in any other part of the world. "Learn early the luxury of saving souls."

6. Spiritual preparation. "Comparatively valueless will all other preparation be, if the volunteer is not spiritually equipped. Jehovah's word to Zerubbabel is yours. Not by an army, nor by power, but by God's Spirit will heathen mountains be brought low. By Pentecostal prayer and Scriptural saturation, by all the means in your power, seek the apostolic preparation. And then go forth to perishing millions, assured of the reaper's wages and fruit, and of the abiding Presence."

III. What he can do to Enlist the Interest and Co-operation of Others in Missions.

1. Conversation. Let the volunteer make the most of his opportunities to get individuals interested in foreign missions, in his home, among his social companions,

in Sabbath school, in business associations and in every other way possible.

2. Speaking. The volunteer should seek to improve all possible opportunities to speak on missions before young people's societies and churches. Let him, if possible, give a portion of his summer entirely to such work. (See Section XVII.)

3. Praying. "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He *send forth* laborers into His harvest." A definite command.

XIX. THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE VOLUNTEER.

What has been said with reference to the spiritual preparation of the volunteer should be carried in its application into his daily life. The greatest lesson which the volunteer has to learn is the lesson of prayer. What are we but the stewards of omnipotence! Vastly more important than the study of ancient or modern languages and literature, or the mastering of the great sciences of our day, or the practicing of the finest arts, is matriculation in that great school, where the only study is at once science and language, and art, where

Jesus Christ is the Great Instructor—the school of prayer.

Two or three suggestions may be made with reference to the quickening of the prayer life of each volunteer.

1. He should by all means have a quiet season near the beginning of each day, when he may be alone in communion with God. Many observe this season for a half hour before breakfast each morning, whence it has been called the “morning watch.”

2. In his Bible study at this season of special communion, he should learn to *feed* on the Word; it is not his at this time to untangle knotty problems, or trace out merely beautiful thoughts; it is his only to get the spiritual food necessary for his day's service. To this end he should plan carefully beforehand for his devotional hours, that their precious moments may be best economized in serving the one purpose of feeding his soul.

3. Every volunteer should also make use of the “Cycle of Prayer” prepared by the Volunteer Movement, in which he is

reminded on each day of the month of a specific object of prayer.

4. Great help may be received from a devotional perusal of Moule's "Secret Prayer," and Murray's "With Christ in the School of Prayer." These every volunteer should own and mark.

APPENDIX.

MODEL LIST OF TOPICS FOR VOLUNTEER BAND MEETINGS.

NOTE. For the sake of definiteness, and in order to show their relation to the different occasions and opportunities of the year, the topics given are assigned to specific dates in the year 1895-98. They will of course require to be rearranged to suit local conditions. It is hoped that they will serve as a guide to the band meeting committees in arranging their programs, but it is also hoped that they will in no case be slavishly followed. Let the committees seek above all to be guided in their plans by Him, Who was sent to guide us into all the truth.

WEEK
BEGINNING

SEPT. 22. Personal testimony meeting. This meeting should strike the key-note for the whole year. Let each volunteer state clearly why and how he volunteered and his present position, mentioning some one difficulty which meets him, such as opposition at home, or some particular hindrance to his spiritual life. These points should be gathered into a definite prayer-list. All should agree to use the list regularly. This secures harmony in the Band and furnishes the knowledge necessary for intelligent prayer for one another. It will be necessary to revise this prayer-list from time to time throughout the

- year, and to record the answers to prayer; thus may the prayer become importunate, progressive, effectual.
- SEPT. 29. Band work. Plans for the year. Summer school delegates report practical suggestions. Work for year outlined. Committees determined upon and appointed.
- OCT. 6. Devotional meeting. The volunteer and the Holy Spirit: the necessity of being filled with the Spirit.
- OCT. 13. Band work. The importance of missionary study, and how to increase and promote it.
- OCT. 20. Devotional meeting. The volunteer and the Holy Spirit: the results of being filled with the Spirit. (See Detroit Report, pp. 131-137.)
- OCT. 27. Band work. Enlisting new volunteers: the duty and privilege of it, and plans for making it possible. (See "The Volunteer Declaration.")
- NOV. 3. Devotional meeting. The volunteer and the Holy Spirit: conditions of being filled with the Spirit. (See Meyer's "Filling of the Holy Spirit.")
- NOV. 10. Band work. Band records and correspondence: importance, methods, and definite steps taken to further it.
- NOV. 17. Devotional meeting. The volunteer and the Holy Spirit: claiming the promises.

- Nov. 24. Band work. Missionary literature: value of private missionary reading; the missionary alcove, how enlarge it and how circulate it; value and use of missionary pamphlets.
- DEC. 1. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a personal worker: the place of personal work as a preparation for his life-work, and its place in the life of a missionary.
- DEC. 8. Band work. Work among churches and young peoples' societies: outfit, material, methods.
- DEC. 15. Devotional meeting. Prayer for each other, and for those who are considering the question of becoming volunteers. Revision of prayer-lists. Plans for Christmas vacation, i.e., church visitation, practical preparation, etc.
- JAN. 5. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a man of prayer: examples of Old Testament men of prayer; analyze specific prayers and note their answer in subsequent narrative.
- JAN. 12. Band work. Review of work done and prayers answered in previous term; reports of Christmas vacation work; plans for present term; revision of prayer-lists.
- JAN. 19. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a man of prayer: the example of Christ as a man of prayer.

- JAN. 26. Band work. Our Board: fields entered; number missionaries; calls from the field; financial condition of Board; etc.
- FEB. 2. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a man of prayer: precept and example in the New Testament; what lessons have I learned in the school of prayer?
- FEB. 9. Band work. Our Board: study of the manual published by the Board: qualifications of candidates, how to apply, etc.
- FEB. 16. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a man of prayer: use and abuse of the Cycle of Prayer, and prayer-lists: revision of prayer-lists.
- FEB. 23. Band work. Missionary maps and charts: their value; how to make them.
- MAR. 1. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a Bible student: the necessity for regular, and systematic, devotional Bible study.
- MAR. 8. Band work. (The work of the term will suggest some specific topic.)
- MAR. 15. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a Bible student: hindrances and helps to devotional Bible study.
- MAR. 22. Band work. (The work of the term will suggest some specific topic.)

- APR. 5. Devotional meeting. The evangelization of the world in this generation: the meaning and duty of it.
- APR. 12. Band work. Outline of plans for remainder of year.
- APR. 19. Devotional meeting. The evangelization of the world in this generation: how accomplish it.
- APR. 26. Band work. Importance of representation at the summer conferences, and plans for securing such representation.
- MAY 3. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a giver: the scriptural principles and reasons for giving.
- MAY 10. Band work. Maturing of plans for summer conferences.
- MAY 17. Devotional meeting. The volunteer as a giver: the scriptural methods for giving.
- MAY 24. Band work. What we as volunteers can do for missions during the summer, and what we can do to prepare ourselves for our life work.
- MAY 31. Devotional meeting. The spiritual life of the volunteer: the best lessons I have learned this year.
- JUNE 7. Devotional meeting. The spiritual life of the volunteer: hindrances and helps to my spiritual life during the summer. Revise prayer-lists for the summer.

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THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERIES.

2. *Shall I go?* Thoughts for Girls. Grace E. Wilder. Price, 5c.
3. *Prayer and Missions.* Robert E. Speer. Price, 5c.
4. *The Volunteer Band for Foreign Missions.* D. Willard Lyon. Price, 5c.
5. *The Self-Perpetuation of the Volunteer Band.* J. Campbell White. Price, 5c.
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OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

The Student Volunteer. The official organ of the Student Volunteer Movement. Published monthly during the college year. Price, per year, in advance, 25c.

The Missionary Fact-Record Book. 224 pages, with special Fact-Record Index, leather, pocket size. Price, 75c.

Report of the First International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, Cleveland, 1891. 8vo., 218 pp. Price, paper, \$1.00

The Student Missionary Enterprise. A verbatim report of the general meetings and section conferences of the Second International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, Detroit, 1894. 8vo., 373 pp. Price, cloth, \$1.00.

The Student Missionary Appeal. Official Report of the Third International Convention (Cleveland, 1898) of the Student Volunteer Movement. Price, cloth, \$1.50.

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