

LAKE GENEVA AND THE SUMMER CONFERENCE.

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Lake Geneva is situated about seventy-five miles north-west of Chicago. It is nine miles in length and varies from one-half mile to two miles in width. At its north-eastern extremity (its longest diameter extends north-east and south-west) lies a prosperous town bearing the same name as the lake. Five or six miles beyond this, along the north shore, is a considerable indentation known as Williams Bay, and at the head of this bay lies a small village of the same name. Here on the 22d of last June, a train load of students left the hot and dusty cars to go by boat the remaining distance of perhaps a mile and a half to the Y. M. C. A. Camp. As the boat moved off majestically from the wharf and began to plough its way through the clear waters of the bay, few on board could help admiring the beauty of the scenery. As we passed beyond the bay and out into the lake the scenery became still more picturesque. Far ahead could be seen steamers, sail boats and row boats moving slowly, their occupants no doubt enjoying the cool breeze of the lake. On either side the clear and level water stretches away to the shore which, now densely

wooded almost to the waters edge, slopes gradually into the hills beyond, and now, less favored by Nature, rises almost abruptly, presenting a steep and rugged bluff. Now we near the shore, and here, where the murmuring waves rock the pebbles and the gentle breeze rustles the leaves, where the soft carpet and the cool shade invite to rest, it is beautiful indeed. There, where man has smoothed out Nature's wrinkles, trimmed her dress of green, arranged her tangled locks and crowned her with that most magnificent work of his hands—a home, it is still more beautiful. What a paradise of rest this is when compared with the busy, bustling city! No wonder so many wealthy Chicagoans have built summer residences all along these shores and supplied them with every convenience for rest and recreation. All too soon this most pleasant part of our trip was ended, and we landed at the wharf of the Y. M. C. A. Camp. Here we found that many had arrived before us, and that the attendance promised to be larger than ever before. After registration we were assigned our tents and in a short time were ready to enjoy all the splendid privileges of the conference. The first service was held on the evening of our arrival, and was devoted principally to giving us a thorough understanding of what would be expected of us and to suggesting how to get the most out of the ten days before us. The next morning the work of the conference began in earnest. I can give but a brief report of it in this article. The forenoon of each day from 7:30 A. M. to 12:15 P. M. was completely filled with work. There were Missionary Institutes, at which the work of the mission band and its relation to the association were considered. These were conducted by Messrs. Lyon and Sharman, of the International Committee. There were presidential conferences which dealt

with the difficulties, the duties and the responsibilities of Association presidents. There were associational conferences which considered the general problems of the Association. Mr. Brockman, so well known among college boys of the west, Mr. Burt, College Secretary of Illinois, and Mr. Michener, College Secretary of Iowa, had charge of these conferences. Two classes in Bible study were conducted by Professors White and Messer, both of Moody's training school. The last hour of the forenoon was devoted to an address or sermon by some prominent speaker and a similar service was held in the evening. Among the principal speakers were Chancellor McDowell, of Denver University, Dr. Breed, Dr. Lawrence and Rev. Torrey, of Chicago, Bishop Galloway and Mr. Wishard, so well known in Association work. The last named speaker gave an interesting report of the great London convention, the fiftieth anniversary of the Y. M. C. A. movement. All of these addresses were very forcible and impressive.

The afternoon, except on Sunday, was given up chiefly to recreation. There was no lack of opportunity for healthy exercise. Row boats, tennis courts, croquet sets, a base ball ground and a gymnasium, all free of charge, were freely used by the delegates.

In the early evening, life work conferences were held either on the lake shore or in the tabernacle where most of the other meetings occurred. Here the claims of foreign missions were earnestly and forcibly presented. The course of many lives was changed and the purpose of many others strengthened by these conferences. The platform meeting followed, and was the last regular meeting of the day.

Thus passed the busy days, and ere we were aware of it the time for the farewell

service was at hand. This was a most impressive service. Short talks were made by members of the Faculty. A few earnest words were spoken by students to tell what benefit they had received from the conference. Then in closing all formed a circle, joined hands, and sang those words so full of meaning on such an occasion, "God be with you till we meet again."

The conference was over and early the next morning, the two hundred and sixty students in attendance representing one hundred and twenty-six colleges, departed for their homes in twenty different states. Yes, the conference was over, but its influence on these students and through them on the world was but begun. Eternity alone can measure that.