

## Rev. E. F. McCarty, D. D.

In his farewell letter to readers of the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY before flying to Africa, Dr. McCarty said, "Since we have written so many times for the church papers it is not necessary for me to give details as to my past, or future." Though perhaps not necessary to give details, it would have been of great interest to his thousands of friends in the church if Rev. McCarty had taken time to tell some of the incidents from his long years of leadership in the denomination. Elected Secretary of the General Conference in 1915 (which office he has held until the present) and later Field Secretary to Foreign Missions in 1919, his years of service as a church officer have spanned an important period of growth and development in Wesleyan Methodism. Rev. Eber Teter, so often affectionately called the "grand old man of the church", was president of the General Conference when the Rev. McCarty was first elected as its secretary. Rev. A. T. Jennings, editor of the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY for twenty-two years had died in Houghton a year before the General Conference convened there.



The first three years in his new position were spent visiting missions in many countries. After some months in England and on the Continent he and his wife, Susan McCarty, had the privilege of getting a first hand knowledge of the needs, opportunities and hardships, on the fields as they visited the Wesleyan mission in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and the Wesleyan mission in India. Their trip continued east with short stops in China and Korea. A mission project sponsored by the Wesleyans had just been launched in Japan some few years before under the leadership of Rev. Teter. The lone missionaries to Japan, Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Gibbs, were most happy to greet their friends from the homeland. Before leaving the shores of Japan, Rev. McCarty had the pleasure of assisting in the ground-breaking for the first American Wesleyan Methodist church in Japan.

During General Conference in 1923, Rev. McCarty was elected Foreign Missionary Secretary for the church. When he had left the shores of America in 1919 the church was enjoying a wave of financial prosperity following the close of World War I. There was a "Forward Movement" on to raise one million dollars for the expansion of all arms of the church. But four years later the newly elected Foreign Secretary found the country in a financial depression and the foreign department \$9,000.00 in debt. This meant a double load upon the leader who must see the work progress on the foreign fields with a reduced staff, and yet pay off the deficit. It was a great joy for the 1927 General Conference to hear the report: "No deficit, no liabilities." There followed a period of spiritual blessing on the fields and soon many able missionaries were being sent out to proclaim the gospel of Christ. Through careful management the foreign department was kept in the "black" even through the depression of the thirties.

The Foreign Secretary made two later trips of significance. The African field was visited in 1935-36 and in 1940 an exploratory trip was made into South America with a view to the establishment of a Wesleyan mission there. This culminated in the establishment of a work there in 1941 in Medellin, Colombia. During these years of labor and travel not only in foreign lands but throughout the homeland in conference visitations, Rev. McCarty has not only made friends through personal contact but also through

his copious writings. He was a frequent contributor of articles to the WESLEYAN METHODIST and the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY. Now, as he completes his twenty-five years of service as leader of the foreign department (1919-1944) and takes up the task of being an active missionary on the field, friends from far and near wish him God's blessing.

Rev. E. F. McCarty is a native of Michigan. He was educated at Houghton Seminary and Hope College, Michigan, from which institution he graduated and took up pastoral labors in the Michigan Conference. He labored there for eleven years as a pastor and three years as president of the conference, then was elected Field Secretary of Foreign Missions. He sustained a great loss in the accidental death of his wife, Susan McCarty, in 1936. Her passing was not only mourned by her devoted husband but also by the whole church which she had served as her husband's able assistant in his abundant labors and as Editor of the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY. Rev. McCarty received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Houghton College in 1938. He married Miss Margaret Mathewson in 1942. Together they flew to Africa in 1944. The McCartys are at present teaching in the Seminary at Bendembu training young men to become the future spiritual leaders in that dark and needy land.

# Who Will Go?

Biographical Sketches of the Present Missionaries  
of the Wesleyan Methodist Church

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