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Women's Missionary Union

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

5-21-1916

Fannie Heck Memorial Booklet (1916)

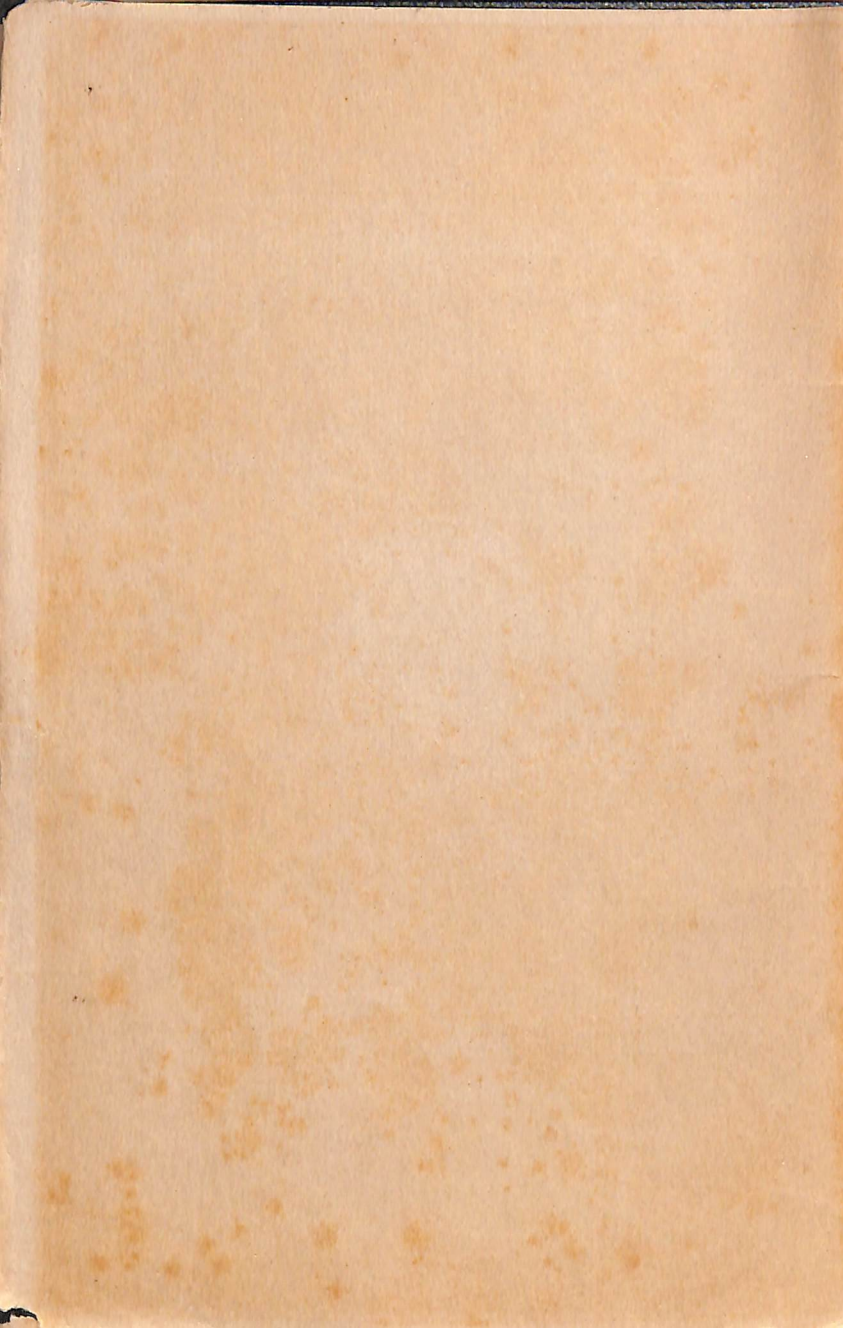
Women's Missionary Union

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In Memoriam

Miss Fannie Felix Scudder Heck





Memorial Service to Miss J. E. S. Heck
W. M. U. President for Fifteen Years



Woman's Missionary Union
Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention
First Baptist Church
Asheville - - - North Carolina
Sunday 3:30 p. m., May 21, 1916

Order of Service

Woman's Hymn "Come Women, Wide Proclaim"

Invocation Dr. E. E. Folk, President of
Board Sunday School

Choir "O Paradise"

Scripture : John 3: 16; John 14: 1-4; 2 Corinthians 5: 1-8; 1 Cor-
inthians 15: 54-57; Revelation 7: 9-17; 21: 1-7, 10-12,
21-27; 22: 1-5

Dr. J. F. Love, Corresponding Secretary of
Foreign Mission Board

Prayer Dr. B. D. Gray, Corresponding Secretary of
Home Mission Board

Solo . . . "Eye Hath Not Seen"

Miss Kathleen Johnson, Meredith College
Violin Obligato

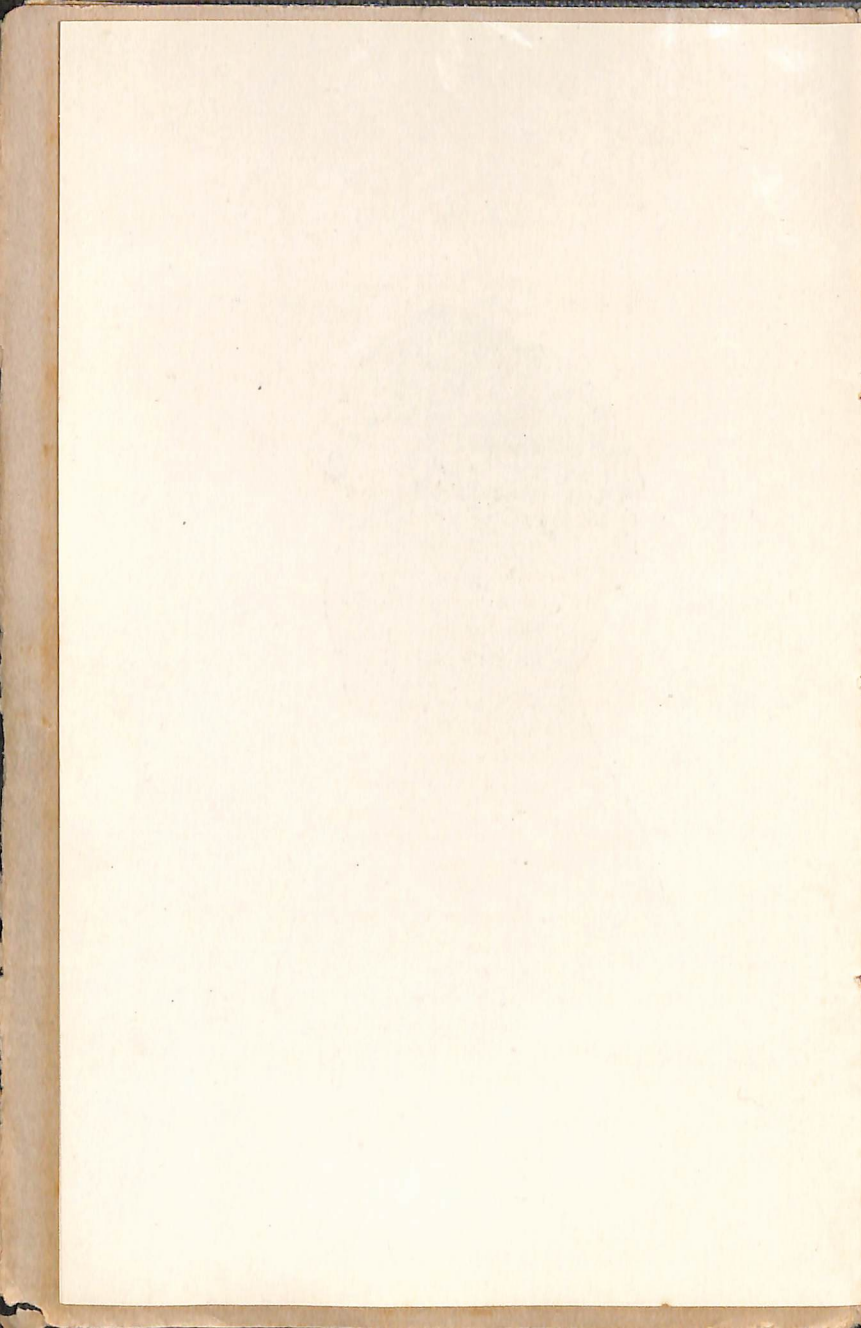
Mrs. E. L. Wolslagel, Asheville

"Foundation Stones" : Mrs. Maud R. McLure, Principal of
W. M. U. Training School

Hymn "For All the Saints"

Benediction Southern Baptist Convention President





The Woman's Hymn

Come women, wide proclaim
Life through your Saviour slain;
Sing evermore.
Christ, God's effulgence bright,
Christ, who arose in might,
Christ, who crowns you with light,
Praise and adore.

Come, clasping children's hands,
Sisters from many lands,
Teach to adore;
For the sin-sick and worn,
The weak and over-borne,
All who in darkness mourn
Pray, work yet more.

Work with your courage high,
Sing of the daybreak nigh,
Your love outpour.
Stars shall your brow adorn,
Your heart leap with the morn,
And by His love up-borne
Hope and adore.

Then when the garnered field
Shall to our Master yield
A bounteous store,
Christ, hope of all the meek,
Christ, whom all earth shall seek,
Christ, your reward shall speak,
Joy evermore.

Fannie E. S. Heck

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes Thy rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

W. W. How

Messages from Miss Heck's Annual Addresses She—"Yet Speaketh"

The Purpose of the Union

Be Christian, my people, be Christian!

Not as in the day of ease when we sing lustily, standing still, "Onward, Christian Soldiers"; not as in formality we call ourselves by the highest title men can claim, a Christian, but in the time when heroes are demanded, when from the common clay must burst the divine, when nations are to be molded, continents won. Be Christian! Gather unto yourself all the meaning of the word—not Christian interpreted by the life of your neighbor—not Christian interpreted by your former life—but Christian interpreted by the life, the death of the Captain. Be Christian, my people, be Christian!

Not one of us but knows the world perishes for lack of such Christians; not one who does not know some perish within the touch of our hands because we are not such Christians. But the call is heroic. We are weak; yet who will lead forward, if we do not? Shall we lead in shrinking back?

Great Captain, help us to be Christian!

To guide, to set the standard of the home; to claim for one's self or to teach by quiet abnegation some higher use of God-given names, we came to such a time; to Esther-like lay aside the rich garments of the feast; to fasting and prayer and even to give life itself not for the salvation of one nation but of many: were we called.

The Union came into being at the beginning of an ever-gathering flood tide of woman's work for missions. For such a time as this we were commissioned to fulfill an overwhelming

task. We were to be the breakwater between southern Baptist women and this world tide or the thousand branching channels which would reach and cause to fructify the God-given impulse of help and compassion in a million women's hearts.

While others praise the Union I would twine a wreath for each state committee. All honor to the eighteen State Unions! If the letters written and the leaflets sent out by them, since the first appeal went out from Baltimore, could be placed end to end, it may be they would literally circle the globe. To their close-linked strength we owe what the Union is today. On their quick response we rely. Their oneness of heart is our chief treasure; their counsel our only pledge of growing wisdom. May each complete a hundred years of service with honor and success.

I need not repeat here what has been said a thousand times and lived out many thousand more, that the Woman's Missionary Society has no existence but in and for the church; that it can have and wishes no life but that drawn from the great Head of the church; that its aims are only to fulfill the commands of that Head. This being so, our organization being as it is, so wide-reaching, so supported, it should be far more than it has yet begun to be, a mighty evangelizing power.

Indeed if the mission consciousness grows as it has done in the last hundred years and with it the mission forces, who can doubt that long ere the close of this new century the world will be evangelized. As a Union we covet a noble part in this end. We ask nothing better than to "be led that we may lead", "be taught that we may teach" the living echoes of those tones which plead in loving accents, calling the whole world to come up higher in life, in hope and in love.

In Obedience

It is a fearful thing to misrepresent God, and we should look carefully. We see Him loving to all, we see Him untir-

ing, we see Him indignant with evil, both in the guise of religion and without its cloak; we heard invitations, warnings; we see the reward of goodness, the certain outcome of evil.

We cannot take His long, long view of the ages nor pry out where or how His plans unite all things for good to them who love Him; but we can do each day the next thing and do it trusting in His might.

Only those who listen with bent attentive ear hear the still small voice. Others hear but the crash of thunder, the mad rush of the whirlwind, losing, alas, His words in the crash of worlds. "In quietness and confidence" shall we hear His voice and gain His strength.

Let us expect that while here together you pray for special blessings upon special mission fields, special blessings shall this day, this hour, "while we pray", be received. Let us look this month, this year, for the great ingathering of souls in each field for which we ask this blessing.

It is beyond argument that no past age has seen such wonderful opportunities for the promulgation of the Christian religion in non-Christian lands as are ours today. We are utterly incapable of appreciating this opportunity in all its greatness, and years of study will only bring us to a faint understanding of the words we use so lightly. Yet even the most casual student of missions must have caught some echoes of the world-wide proclamation that the fullness of time has come. They will also have heard underneath this echo, some time well-nigh drowning it to the ear of little-faith, the clash of opposing forces, of evils strengthening themselves to combat those of good, the opportunity for conquest for Christ throwing open also the door for His enemies to enter in new and insidious guise.

I bring you no new message, no new way to reach our desired end. Responsibilities we know, work we endeavor, hope we foster but, after all, it comes back to the simple truth that the best Christians are the best missionaries.

An eminent philanthropist, one who has had the rare joy of seeing his day dreams for his poor neighbors become a reality, has said that it was left for this day to speak the last word in the problem of bettering the race and this last word is personal service. If this self-giving to reach and lift our fellows is the last word, it is also the first—the alpha as well as the omega of that religion, whose Founder first gave Himself. If, through the centuries, His followers have waited to speak this word, it was that they were not speaking with their Master's voice. In sending His disciples Christ said, "Go"—His people faltered out beneath their breath, "Or send a substitute".

Among beggars, rags arouse no comment. When we come into the presence of the King, we know we are poor and naked and miserable. How thin and tattered is our best robe of righteousness compared to His! How pitiful, how infrequent, how trivial our desires, our yearnings for the good of the world, for its salvation from evil in all its forms in this present life and to eternal joy in the world to come!

Why does God want the world converted? "To get glory for Himself", answered the old theologian. "Because He desires the world's highest happiness and joy", says the new. And both are right, for the highest glory of the Maker is surely the perfection and joy of what is made. In other words, through Christ we come to see that God is the author of right—right in the laws of health, of civilization, of government, of thinking, of acting, and just so far as a nation approaches God's rightness, it is happy and safe. The difference between the nations we call Christian and heathen is not in dress or language or civilization but fundamental. One

knows God and one does not. Christianity is not something tacked on to civilization, it is civilization. It is this principle implanted in a nation that works out in these forms. Those who have grown up under the blessings and benefits of Christian civilization may impose its forms on other than Christian nations but, without the truth itself in the nation, it is foreign, temporary, superficial, maintained under compulsion and doomed to failure. The more thoroughly a nation knows God, the better, happier, healthier is its people.

On Behalf of Our Young People

If you cannot leave your foot-prints on the sands of time, write your Master's name on the granite of eternity. If you rear no palace for Him here, build in these young souls His temple which will outlast time and be coeval with eternity. Reach out to other children.

Our neglect of the children has found us out. The young women of today would be ours, if ten years ago we had gathered the children into Sunbeam societies, there would now be no young woman's problem. But since we did not we must overcome our own neglect. How? The colleges have had them in the meanwhile and I rejoice with all my heart that they have taught many of them in mission classes. They have come back, many of them, warm hearted to missions in general, ready to work, ready to lead but knowing, perhaps, little of southern Baptist missions and, finding no place for them in the home church, they have drifted into indifference and for a second time they are lost to us. Here is our problem, and again I ask how shall we meet it?

I would call your attention to the fact that the Bible promises reward not to the beginners but to the overcomers. What did hinder, for they ran well for a season? Generally the complaint is the lack of leaders.

For Efficiency's Sake

Leaving aside the great spiritual benefit they will bring to heathen or unevangelized women, every southern Baptist woman needs to be part of the Union for her own spiritual enlargement, that her church may be brought in touch with one of the most vital and progressive and, I trust, spiritual organizations of our great division of God's army of conquest and for the highest, most unselfish and Christlike development of the children entrusted to her care. This side of enlistment has not yet taken a firm grasp on the consciousness of the Union. We have thought more of what these women could give through the Union than what they would gain from the Union. We will not draw them to us until they are convinced that we "seek not yours but you".

The tract will be needed no less but must follow the track of some self-devoted woman leading to every home. There is a foot-path to every heart if we but seek it. Enlistment Day in our own churches is good—but some must seek and seek earnestly those beyond.

You who face me today are preeminently busy women. To your household cares you have added mission cares. Many of you are tired, body and soul. You sometimes, as your weary feet hurry forward and your weary soul lags behind, wonder, dazed by fatigue, what it is all about and whether you—not the cause or somebody or something else but you—are getting anywhere, doing anything. You are too weary often to partake of the spiritual food you prepare for others. Your own soul is starving in the sight of plenty. You are the Marthas of the Heavenly Household. You are ready with your categorical answers of faith—great faith—but before you have let your own words bring you comfort, you have rushed off to call someone else.

Many mission leaflets are mere leaflets and dead as those which whirled before last autumn's breezes; but some are like the maple leaflets that sift down upon us gently in spring, two winged, bearing, between the wing of interest and the wing of hope, the seed of love. Choose the ground and seed with care. Broadcasting on unprepared soil means small return.

What I ask of you is to believe that debt is an unnecessary part of mission work. Belief moves the world. Believe and some one will believe with you. Belief is contagious only, however, when the "case" is pronounced. If we "take" belief thoroughly it will spread. Unnecessary things have no place in the economy of nature or of grace. The whole economy of true religion is based on man's and God's necessities. Every bit of the mission work we are doing is necessary; we are meeting only a hundredth part of the God-made necessities of the case. What I ask is that we with heart and soul throw ourselves into the creation of a sentiment against mission debts. Do not scoff at sentiment. It is woman's sentiment which has in the last forty years changed the codes of many states and revolutionized the thoughts of the nation on the subject of temperance. The creation of sentiment is as womanly as powerful. It has been her chief power and protection through the ages. I believe through the women here and the societies of women which can in every state be reached through you that, without deviating one whit from the lines on which we are now working, such a feeling against debts can be created that in a few years they shall be wiped out forever from our mission books.

For the few to whom large wealth has been entrusted is the uplifting experience of giving thousands and by devotion or sacrifice coming into large partnership in God's designs. But for the many is reserved holding this purpose near the heart day by day, until it becomes part of the life and the gift has grown to be the precious spikenard, distilled from many a white flower of sacrifice, sweetened by the dews of prayer.

Further On

It is a thrilling moment when we stand between two eras—one of preparation, one of achievement. Much we have brought from the past. Today we stand equipped and strengthened by that past for achievements yet undreamed of. With such a past, to continue to advance as we have done by slow degrees is but to exist. To draw ourselves to our full height, to breathe in the pure air of the purposes of God, to face our task with high looks and dauntless heart is to live, to grow, to prosper, to surmount. Shall we exist or shall we live?

With all the qualities which make for vitality, which have been named, it would be possible for the Union to so tread in old paths that it might outlive its usefulness and be justly numbered with the things of the past. Here is a demand for the highest statesmanship. A knowledge of changing conditions, the foresight to lead rather than be driven, to seize and mold rather than complain and retard progress. Such statesmanship requires a dispassionate consideration of every method however honored, solely on its merits and its discontinuance for a better and broader one, just as soon as it has ceased to fulfill its mission. This by no means seeks to exalt the new simply because it is new, to veer with every passing fad in missions or in methods but constantly to have an open mind and a progressive outlook and try both old and new on the keenest edge of our clearest judgment, to give to God's affairs the same long and careful forethought that we would to our own and with that caution which is a woman's characteristic fit the instrument to the accomplishment.

It would be worse than useless to deny that the whole thought concerning woman's life is changing. It behooves Christian women to hold fast to that which is good; to carry with them, wherever the drift of tides beyond their control may bear them: their loyalty to God, their high ideals, their honesty, their modesty of thought and dress and deportment; to make the line

that divides them from those who do not serve Him clearer than it has ever been; and to make each new privilege a new opportunity to turn all thoughts Godward. So the broader sympathies and reading and the wider outlook should seek His point of view. It will come to be that Christian women everywhere will be eager for mission knowledge; they will form in groups for continued missionary study as now in clubs to study new or ancient literature; every public library will have, at their demand, a missionary alcove and the lives of the missionary heroes will be as familiar as that of Bismarck and the Chinese Revolution will surpass the French in interest. When is this so? Shall it not be before 1938?

Before the second quarter of a century is far advanced there will rise a larger Training School. As at present it will share the enlightening lectures of the professors of the Theological Seminary; as at present it shall have in its own House Beautiful those distinctive lessons which train soft voices and supple hands of women to lead in God's praise, to bind the broken limb, to prepare the tempting meal and meet the problems of women's lives in woman's way; and, as at present, from its door the young women shall go forth to bless the city round them. But all these things shall be multiplied by its ability to receive and the eagerness of many to share its benefits. Can you not see this large and beautiful building standing in stately symmetry to attest to all who pass or hear that the Union thinks nothing too good to assure the best of training for the best of causes; standing to tell every girl whose young heart longs to bless the world that here is an Alma Mater who will train her nobly for a noble task? Your hearts are fixed on this. You have talked and planned for it, drawing the plans in scale with the foundations. A million southern Baptist women should have in training for world service two hundred girls a year. Just before Moody's pen dropped for the last time from his fingers he wrote: "If God is your partner make your plans large". Across the foundations of the Union one motto stands out beyond all others: "Workers together with God". If He is your partner in this Training School, make your plans large.

