

Foreign Missions.

Contributions.

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Amount asked from Canada this year, \$1,600; paid in so far, \$850.48.

Letter from China.

DEAR BRO. MUNRO,—I am sorry I have not written you more lately, but I have been quite busy. I have two dispensaries now, one on the largest and busiest street in the city, and the other, while out of the city, in the most conspicuous part of the city, and near our houses. I see a great number of patients in a month. Perhaps ague and itch are the most prevalent troubles. Quinine is the sheet anchor for the former, and sulphur for the latter. We have few diseases that you are not accustomed to at home. Among these few are leprosy, of which I sometimes see two or more cases a-day. It is known as an incurable disease, but there are remedies that can do great things for it. It is a horrible disease; the face becomes set in expression, and insensible to the prick of a needle. This is the lion-like expression spoken of. The fingers contract and become stiff, and after months or years drop off. Ulcers form on the feet, and the toes drop off. Later, limbs contract and may ulcerate off. The patient may go blind. This is not wrongly taken as an emblem of sin, but the leprosy of the Bible was probably itch in many cases and other diseases of the skin. Ulcered legs are much more prevalent than with us, and eye troubles also, especially in grown lashes. These can nearly all be cured by us. Is it not a glorious mission of the church to introduce the healing art into a heathen country where great reliance is placed in charms and worthless remedies for the cure of disease? Christ introduced charitable medical treatment, and the church introduces it into China. It cannot be self-supporting now, but by and by the Chinese will take it up. I am teaching three students, and they seem to learn very satisfactorily. My eldest student can now, when I am away, treat two-thirds or more of the cases that come. May the Lord bless our efforts so that we shall be able to send many qualified men out to practice among their own people.

Yours sincerely, W. E. MACCLIN.

Nankin, March 1, 1891.

Our Missions in the Far East.

C. E. GARSTH.

That we will in the near future be a great missionary people I have no doubt. Though at times the apparent lethargy of the saints dampen our enthusiasm, still the signs of the times are on the whole hopeful. As our work enlarges, one of the most important questions that can arise is the locations of missions; reference is not made to the countries, but to the location of workers in countries. Work has been opened in India, China and Japan, all heathen countries. "The greatest good to the greatest number" expresses what is desired in evangelizing. In any country of importance there are certain focii, few in number, yet from which all parts of the country are easily reached; people flow in and out of them from and to all parts.

Business men locating extensive establishments go to such places. These cities are almost invariably cosmopolitan; in heathen countries the dwellers in them are apt to be away from the conservative influences of

home, and the more readily take up with new ideas. These focii are the natural locations in which to open mission work. As it grows it can extend in all directions along lines of travel, churches will be in easy supporting distance of each other; they are also easily united for co-operative work. This is the day of "trusts." "Co-operate or die," said Professor Henshaw. Again, the modern accessories in evangelizing are the school and the printing press. Even if large cities are not the best places for schools, they should be near, and cities are the places to issue publications, especially periodicals. Missions, even if in different countries, have a strong influence on each other. For instance, if the Japan mission were to suffer, China would feel it owing to the intimate relations of the two empires; on the other hand, success in one country exhilarates the work in the other. Though our missions are, as yet, weak, we have a line through the heart of Japan and China, which only needs to be strengthened and extended a little to make it a wonderful base of missionary operations. At the eastern end of this line is Tokyo, the capital and largest city in Japan, throbbing with life, from which most of the empire is easily accessible. The population of Tokyo is twelve hundred thousand. The next point is Shanghai, a seaport at the mouth of the Yangtze river, the largest in China and one of the largest in the world, and is the main artery of the "Flowery Kingdom." Shanghai, perhaps the most important city in China, now has more than a million people and will grow; we are fortunate in having a good worker there. Two hundred and fifty miles to the west, up the same river, is Nanking, formerly the capital of the empire and still one of her most important cities. The Nankinese is the mandarin dialect, like gold, current throughout the empire. Here there is comparatively a strong band who learn the mandarin at the purest spring, which is of incalculable benefit. Three hundred and fifty miles up stream is the great city of Hankow, of more than a million of people, at the head of navigation for the largest ocean steamers, in the very heart of China. As yet we have no workers there, but doubtless we will before long.

From Tokyo to Hankow is a base line through Japan and China, having a population of four hundred millions of people. The human side of the work of converting can well engage the noblest powers man may possess. Between Tokyo and Shanghai is Osaka, the Chicago of Japan; a work is needed there to make the chain complete. If the points can be fairly manned for a few years the work will be established, and will, when once established, grow with great rapidity. If the principles of the reformation are true, we should as fast as possible make their influence felt throughout the world.

Strong missions on the lines indicated in this article will help our standing (and hence the spread of our principles) at home and abroad as nothing else will do. Missions will keep us from being considered the Pharisees of the nineteenth century. "They say well, but do ill." There is cause of congratulation on the location of the mission stations in the forecast, and my prayer is that the good beginning may be closely followed up till it becomes a grand success to the glory of God.

Men and means are needed at a greater rate than the pittance of seventeen cents per member per year will furnish. I read the other day: "A lion cannot be caught in a mouse-

trap." One man preaching to thirty or forty millions of people is about as absurd as the attempt to thus catch a lion. Is it not our duty to preach to those people?

Shanghai, Japan, March 8, 1891.

Obituaries.

Died April 12, 1891, aged nineteen years, at Nassagawoya, Sister Eliza Ann Playor. She was the only daughter of her widowed mother, and the great comfort of her aged grandparents. For a long time she has been an invalid, and longed for rest. Her last song "I Long to be There" will indicate her heart's desire. She lived a pure life, and was a devoted Christian. Elder Kilgour, of Guelph, preached the funeral sermon, assisted by Bro. Heator, and the writer. D. MUNRO.

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