

# The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XII.—No. 5.

TORONTO, AUGUST 8, 1895

\$1.50 per Annum

## OVER LAND AND SEA.

The religious progress of Japan could hardly be better indicated than by the report of the Rev. Mr. Loomis, agent of the American Bible Society. His report shows that the officials of Tokio now permit the distribution of Bibles among the police force and the prison guards. Copies of the Old and New Testament Scriptures were distributed among the rank and file of the army and navy and in the hospitals of Japan soon after the outbreak of the recent war, and this with the approval of the commander-in-chief of the Japanese army. During the war some 130,000 copies were distributed in this way. It is only when we have gone back over the history of Japan for a score of years and compared its present condition with the condition twenty years ago, that we can form any adequate estimate of the importance of these facts. The war between Japan and China will, in the end, tend to the progress of Christianity in both countries, and we trust to the speedy evangelization of both.

A ruling elder, a deacon, or a private member of the church, who desires to do something in the service of his Master, and yet fears that his motives may be misunderstood, or that he may make a mistake that would result in harm if he should attempt it, or thinks he has neither time nor fitness for services which he knows Christians ought to perform, may safely try to do such things as these, namely, attend Sabbath school, church, and prayer-meetings regularly; greet in a kind and Christian spirit the brethren and strangers at these meetings; help to support according to his ability the work of the congregation and the benevolent work of whole Church; keep constantly in view the interests of his own congregation, strive to promote its unity and peace, to reclaim the backslider, to instruct the ignorant, to strengthen the weak, to cheer the despondent, and comfort the sorrowing. If he works humbly and faithfully in these ways, he will soon find his field of usefulness widening, his faith and courage increasing, and his desire and will to work for the Master growing stronger and stronger.

The annual liquor bill of Canada is \$134,785,400. It is said that Glasgow has 400 prison cells for women, and drink most frequently puts occupants into them.

Bishop Potter assumes for the summer the guise of a simple pastor. He takes full charge of the Cathedral Mission on Stanton street New York, while the rector, the Rev. Francis R. Bateman, is on his vacation. The Bishop has taken up his abode in Mr. Bateman's apartments, which are plainly furnished rooms on the top floor of the mission building. He will have a busy summer, for in addition to the daily and Sunday services, there are the Boys' Club, the Sewing School, the Fresh Air Work, the Relief Department, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Helping Hand, and other organizations to look after and supervise. He will also make pastoral visits, calls on the sick, and conduct

funeral services, if there be a necessity for them. For a bishop to undertake ordinary pastoral work at any time is uncommon, and for him to do so in the hot summer months is surely most unique. Bishop Potter should be rewarded with large results from his summer's work, which may he have the satisfaction of realizing.

"Going to Church won't save a man" No one said it would. But it will be a great help. It is infinitely better than staying away. No sane man can expect to be saved by disobeying God's command in regard to "assembling ourselves together." Going to church opens the way for going to Heaven. It is a means of grace appointed by God Himself. No reasoning man can hope to accomplish anything without using means. Food will not of itself prolong life. A man must go to the table and eat the food in order to live. Merely formal attendance at church will not save anyone, but wilful absence from church will finally destroy one. The Church is the divinely established channel of all blessings. Men who think they can establish some other better way of securing the blessing of salvation must think they are wiser than the Almighty Himself.

Professor Flinders Petrie, the eminent Egyptologist, has been conducting excavations in Egypt at the cost of Mr. Jessie Haworth, of Bowdon, and Mr. Martyn Kennard, who is well-known along the Welsh border. Dr. Petrie has achieved a brilliant success, for he has at length bridged over the unknown centuries between the age of the pyramid builders and the age of Abraham. His discoveries are of the utmost importance, and prove the existence of a race of people in Egypt entirely unsuspected up to this moment. It may be diverting to state that the Edwards Professor has brought back with him a charcoal foot-warmer, a thousand years older than the time of Abraham, and also a perfect set of ninepins of the identical shape of the American bowls of modern time. These, together with a huge jar of scent, which still preserves its fragrance, and a host of other objects of equal interest, are all attributed to a date at least five thousand years ago.

A Parliamentary return has been issued "giving the number of arrests for drunkenness within the Metropolitan Police district of Dublin and the cities of Belfast, Cork, Limerick and Waterford on Sunday between the 1st day of May, 1894, and the 30th day of April, 1895, 21st days inclusive, the arrests being given from 8 a.m. on Sundays till 8 a.m. on Mondays." The return also applies to the Irish counties. The total of such arrests for the five cities are:—Dublin, 670; Belfast, 347; Cork, 191; Limerick, 141; Waterford, 147. In the counties there were 2,707 such arrests. In Cork the number was 380, in Kerry 167, in Limerick 165, in Antrim 157, and in Down 152. In only seven counties is the number above one hundred.