

## MISSION FIELD.

## Is it Best to Send Boxes to the Foreign Field?

"Oh, yes, I know there are boxes and boxes, just as there are folks and folks—but—"

"Oh, but it is so nice to think of those poor little heathens having something pretty once in awhile."

"And it must be a great help to the missionaries; don't you remember how Mrs. Blank wrote of a whole village being interested through one card? And the doll that little Persian girl took home, and how they first scrubbed the child so as not to spoil the doll, and then the mother to match the child and the house to match them both! And how the lesson of purity is working still and may yet bring the greatest good—a soul made white?"

"Yes, I know," sighs the Chairman, "but I wish the zeal might be directed a little.—Think of that camera sent without lenses, and that splendid magic lantern with no slides—and all these other things, congruous and incongruous, good and bad."

"Oh well," replies the Secretary consolingly, "I heard the other day of a box sent to India, or some other good hot place, with two pounds of nice fresh butter and a jar of maple syrup in it, and as it had not the proper address and had to be held, you can imagine the condition of the contents when it was opened, but we have never had quite such a serious case as that on our hands." "No, that's true," admits the Chairman. "How many of you can come back to-morrow? We must get through this week."

"What shall we do about boxes?" comes every year from exhausted committees who have spent hours sorting over dusty, unsuitable business and cigarette cards, needless dolls, wheelless carts, marbles and jackstones. We always have sent missionary boxes to different parts of the Home Field. We have been brought up that way, and then many people will give in that way who will not in any other, and a box is a real tie of interest and affection between the two far separated ends of the line. It is nice for the missionaries, who are just folks after all, to see and enjoy some of the latest little novelties and fads with which the home friends are cluttering up their houses. It does make America seem like a real place to Chinese or Siamese children in the schools, and there is much more to be said of the real help these little gifts are to the missionaries in gaining attention and interest. So: *Do* send boxes, if you can, as actual extras.

*Don't* forget that freight and duties are enormous, and a ten or twenty dollar box that will cost fifty dollars to send is hardly worth it. Is it?

*Don't* send wax babies to the tropics! Their dear little countenances melt away and the little mothers are made very sad.

*Don't* send hat pins to India, where they wear no hats—nor hair pins to Persia, where they never "do up" their back hair. Though pins and needles are universally welcome, I believe China and India knew the art of paper making before we did, so there is no need to send letter paper to our friends there, for it weighs heavily and freight is dear. The Chinese and Japanese use paper handkerchiefs and a great saving in washing it must be, too. And Hindoo girls like black haired dolls.

*Don't* send furs and flannels to Africa or silk gauze to the Esquimaux, "coals to Newcastle" or "figs to Smyrna." In other words, only find what is needed from your headquarters and send accordingly. Sort over your own batch of cards; it is just as easy for you as for any one else. You will know that pictures of ballet girls and coarse-faced men are not good mediums for Gospel truth! And cats dressed up in children's clothes and studying lessons are a sore puzzle to the little brains to whom everything foreign is strange, and who have often heard it said that "you might as well try to teach a cat to read as a girl." Above all—the biggest kind of a *Don't* is—*Don't* let the box interfere with any regular funds or pledges or with money gifts! Every penny is so much needed for real Gospel work, for pressing on into the regions beyond—into the great darkness—to tell the glad tidings to those who have never heard. A box can only be helpful if it is altogether an extra. So you see boxes have as many sides as "Special Objects," if not more, and after looking carefully on them all I hope you won't forget to send them for next Christmas, but *do* remember every one of the *Don't's*.—*Woman's Work for Woman.*

## Mission in India.

The Rev. J. N. Forman of the American Presbyterian Mission in India, has been trying to live down to the social condition of the Hindus. He has lived in a room fourteen feet by eight, with a veranda on which his cooking was done. In food and dress he also sought to get as near the people as possible. He meant the self abasement to be a means to the end of the more successful winning of the people to Christ. He tried the experiment in three differ-

ent places, fairly and fully. He now abandons it, asserting that the ordinary way of missionary living is far more successful in winning men to Christ. At present many who are willing that the missionaries should make sacrifices rather than themselves are demanding that they live as the natives do. Over and over again has this been attempted, and owing to the inability of Westerners to live in Oriental style, health has given way, or it has resulted, as with Mr. Forman, in a downright failure to achieve the end of missions.

## Looks into Books.

**CHURCH UNITY:** five lectures delivered in the Theological Seminary, New York, during the winter of 1896. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. William Briggs, Toronto. Price \$1.00.

The subject of Church Unity is one that will not down. Notwithstanding what seem to be irreconcilable obstacles in the way at the present time, and the cessation of all negotiations it still continues to occupy the thought of some of the foremost minds of Christendom from the Pope down. The present volume is a virtual symposium on it by the representatives of as many Protestant churches, and as representatives they are prominent enough to make their statements worth reading. Dr. Shields, of Princeton, discusses the General Principles, Dr. Andrews, of Brown University, the sin of Schism, Bishop Hurst, of Washington, the Irenic Movements since the Reformation, Bishop Potter, of New York, the Chicago-Lambeth Articles, Dr. Bradford, of Montclair, the Unity of the Spirit. It cannot be said that any of them help the subject forward very much. The whole book is rather an effort to get at the real nature of the hindrances, as a preliminary to their removal. They make it abundantly evident that a good many things will have to come to pass before Christendom is re-united. In the meantime it would probably be more to the purpose to agitate for the union of some of those Protestant bodies which are closely akin, but the larger project will always be a stimulating ideal, and whether accomplished or not, the hope of it may serve to temper history and restrain the ignoble spirit of petty sectarianism.

The *Presbyterian Quarterly* for July deals more fully than usual with matters affecting the Southern church. It has for example a discussion on the ecclesiastical status that should be given to their Foreign Missionaries, a Historical Sketch of the Southern Presbyterian Church, by Dr. T. O. Johnson, and a racy account of their Assembly this year which is characterized as an aggressive one. Besides these in addition to the usual criticisms and book notices it contains excellent articles on Theology the Science of Religion, by Dr. W. T. Hall. Davinek on the *Principium Externum*, by Dr. Doaker. A Perversion of History, by Dr. Waddell. This last severely scores the Protestant Episcopal Church for the character of its allusion to the events of 1660 in the recent correspondence on Union. Richmond. \$3.00 a year.

The *Homiletic Review* for August is quite up to its usual standard in sermonic material as well as in its other departments. Three of its best articles are by Canadians, Sir William Dawson, Dr. McCurdy and Dr. MacLeod, of Thorburn, N.S. Funk and Wagnalls: New York. \$3.00 a year.

Rudyard Kipling is now putting the last touches on a fifty-thousand-word novel dealing with the Gloucester fisherman and their life on the Grand Banks. It is written from close personal study of the scene and the people. It is American in its characters, and in its plot seafaring and adventurous. It breaks entirely new ground. The title is "Captains Courageous."

There has been a lively competition for the serial rights of "Captains Courageous." They have been secured for the United States by The S. S. McClure Co., and publication of the novel will begin in the November number of "McClure's Magazine."

A small work of uncommon interest and value is "The Living Topics Cyclopaedia," which now costs, complete to date, the small sum of \$1.00. It is a unique publication, and its free specimen pages are worth sending for. Its latest issue gives the most important facts, "up to date," concerning, among hundreds of other important subjects, such titles as Cuba, Currency (a "living topic," indeed), Debt, national and foreign, East Africa, Egypt, Electricity, England, Engineering, France, German Empire, Gold, Greece, also concerning the States Delaware, Florida and Georgia. In general, the object of the work is to answer the questions you would seek to solve by consulting your cyclopaedia, were it "up to date," which no cyclopaedia is or possibly can be, because of its magnitude and cost. "The Living Topics," being a small work, and treating only of "living" topics, is continually in process of revision, a new edition being published every month. After you have paid for one edition you are allowed to purchase later ones, within a year thereafter, at about one-third price, and thus keep your knowledge "up to date" at trifling cost. Address the publisher, John B. Alden, 10 and 12 Vandewater St., New York.