

monthly meetings of our preachers here, and what I have seen myself, should give us cause for gratitude to God, and for still more earnest consecration to work.

True, there are great difficulties. A few weeks ago the leading Salvation Army in Tokio said that Japan was the hardest field that the Army had yet entered. We must possess our souls in patience, but we must also possess the land for Christ. "We are well able to go up and possess the land." "Our sufficiency is of God."

Let me give you a quotation from a Japanese newspaper which is very influential. It has an English department. In an article on Buddhism it said, "The great Hongwanyi sect, enjoying imperial and other high patronages, has been for several centuries past a social and political power in the land. The sect has been considered a mighty means of defence against Christianity and other alien faiths. This body so huge, so highly privileged, so rich in money and patronages, now shows distinct symptoms of mortal disease. The 'Mountain' seems to shake to the very bottom. The Honorable High Pontiff is known to be a confirmed profligate. The debt of the sect now amounts to over million yen, and it is increasing rapidly. Will it stand the shock at this time of religious skepticism? The final test for Japanese Buddhism has come." So writes a gifted Japanese scholar, the editor of a secular paper. I might give other quotations from secular Japanese papers showing that the old religions and the old conditions will no longer satisfy the needs of the people. Set over against this the fact that under the blessing of God our work here has been very successful during the past year, that other evangelical churches, with one sad exception, have had a prosperous year, that the "Tract Societies" for 1896 reported the largest circulation and sales since the work began, and shall we not thank God and take courage saying, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us."

When this reaches you, perchance you will soon go forth, if indeed you have not gone, into the new year. Go as those who are commissioned by High Heaven for a great task. Greater responsibilities are ours if we follow faithfully. Greater deeds will be accomplished, grander thoughts, higher inspirations will be revealed to us. So with a purpose strong and serious, full of faith and hope, we shall live and labour until life shall not be reckoned by years, and a glorious victory shall have been won.

Wishing you all the happiest and best New Year of your lives, I am your brother and yoke-fellow,

D. NORMAN.

[We have an excellent photogravure of Rev. D. Norman, B.A. It is nicely engraved on a 9 x 11 inch highly finished cardboard, with beautifully tinted border. Send us 25c. and the addresses of two of your friends, anywhere in North America, and we will send the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER to each of them and the picture of Rev. D. Norman, who wrote the above letter from Japan to you.—ED.]

Items of News.

I FIND a news column very hard to prepare. If I were to attempt to tell of the news of the Forward Movement for Missions, all along the line, I would need a paper as large as the *Christian Guardian*, and even then the half would not be told.

REV. H. T. FERGUSON, President of the Collingwood District Epworth League, writes very encouragingly of his visits to the Leagues on his district. He says the Forward

Movement is organized "in the great majority of the Leagues."

MANY of our subscribers have written asking if the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER can be sent to the separate addresses of club subscribers at the club rate of ten cents per year in clubs of ten. Yes, to any address in America.

MR. O. B. CRYDERMAN, President of Bowmanville District Epworth League, writes: "The Bowmanville District is taking hold of the two Forward Movements (for Missions and for Bible study) well. I feel confident in raising \$500 this year. Our district has been visited throughout by two who were appointed by the Executive to bring before each League the two movements."

IF any workers feel the need of help with their Missionary Department, we strongly advise them to write to their superior officers, either district or Conference missionary vice-presidents. These officers are always ready to help; they make a special study of methods of holding meetings and all that pertains to conducting the Missionary Department of the Epworth League.

MISS M. DE WOLFE, Halifax, N.S., Missionary Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Conference Epworth League, is sending circular letters, full of good suggestions, to every League in the Nova Scotia Conference. Miss De Wolfe recognizes how much good may be done through correspondences, and offers to help any Leagues in the Nova Scotia Conference who need assistance, if they will write to her.

THE colleges, from Columbia College, New Westminster, on the Pacific Coast (from which we received, a few days ago, a very encouraging letter), to Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., in the far east, are centres of prayer and study for missions. The students of Wesley College, Winnipeg; Victoria College and Trinity Medical College, Toronto; Albert College, Belleville; Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal; Stanstead College, Stanstead, P.Q.; Columbia College, New Westminster, B.C.; Mount Allison, Sackville, N.B., are now meeting in preparation for the important work of helping our young people during the coming summer in the Forward Movement for Missions.

MR. JOSEPH FIFE, West Essa, President of the Bradford Epworth League, after saying that he will be at the Toronto Conference Epworth League Convention (which example we hope every president will be able to follow), tells us that he and the Missionary Vice-President, Mr. C. W. Henry, of Thornton, have the whole Bradford District thoroughly organized for the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions, except one circuit, and that they will visit soon. He also informs us that they have organized new Leagues, and did not forget to start subscription lists for the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER. When their missionary, Bro. Daniel Norman, B.A., whose letter appears in this number, sees the above item of news, will he not feel strong in the prayers of the Bradford District Leagues?

ONE of our old Campaigners, who is doing faithful missionary work in Algoma District, writes: "I am in correspondence with Parry Sound and Bracebridge Districts as to a union of force. The plan is to get all the Leagues into line, if possible, and have the Executive of each district meet about the time of the annual District Meeting in May, and appoint the three missionary vice-presidents and the three district chairmen a committee to meet at Conference and ACT. How does this strike you?" Allow me to say