

ignorance, and establishing that knowledge which is power, physical, mental, spiritual.

The trained nurse has her place in the missions of our domestic and foreign fields as well as in the philanthropy of the most cultured American cities. Perfect as are the trained nurses of our St Mark's Hospital, Grand Rapids, they are not a whit more effective than the faithful missionary nurse found in the strange wards of a Japanese Christian hospital. Because Christianity is practical, saving the whole nature, body, soul, spirit, missions being Christian agencies affecting every part of our humanity; hence the mission nurse has her assigned and sacred place as well as the ordained priest and consecrated bishop. . .

Do not oppose missions. Speak not against missions. If you cannot yet support missions, I ask you to be neutral.

Hear, read, and be informed about missions; pray that you may be the friend of missions; obey Christ's command, have faith in God and His work, and soon the day must come when your heart and hand shall be for missions and the missionary.—*Rev. Dr. Campbell Fair, in the Spirit of Missions.*"

A FESTIVAL WEEK,

REMEMBER the three festivals that come this week, following closely the great Christmas feast. They are, first, St. Stephen's Day, which comes December 26; second, St. John the Evangelist's Day, December 27; and third, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28. And the week itself is full of the glad Christmas echoes which brighten every day for those who love the Holy Child, and have welcomed Him to their hearts.

'Tis at Christmas time, when frost is out,
And the year is very old,
And icicles and snowdrifts make
This cold world seem more cold;
At Christmas time that He was born,
Who came that He might bring
All them that love Him to the land
Of everlasting spring.

'Tis at Christmas time, when holly shines
With green and prickly leaves,
And on its bough a coronet
Of scarlet berries weaves—
At Christmas is St. Stephen's feast,
Who wore the robe of red,
Whereby the Martyr's blessed crown
Alone is purchased.

'Tis at Christmas time, when all things seem
So very pure and bright,
And fields are sparkling with the frost,
And earth is spotless white;
At Christmas time his day comes round,
Who purity puts on
As fields and trees their robe of snow—
The apostle, sweet St. John.

At Christmas time is our own bright day,
When all those children dear
Who died for Christ went up on high
To begin a happier year.
Blest Innocents! like the flowers that now
In the ground so long have lain;
But surely, soon as April comes,
Shall wake and bloom again.

—Selected.

THE PHRASE "FOREIGN MISSIONS."

The Protestant Episcopal Missionary Council held in Chicago in October, 1893, Bishop Thompson said:

"What do you mean by Foreign Missions? It was a heathen man who, one day long ago, said, 'There is nothing human which is foreign to me.' There is nothing human which can be to a man foreign. Must you and I learn from an old heathen, unbaptized Roman the right use of language about missions? Aren't we using words as parrots use them sometimes without meaning? It would seem that we Christians are about the most stupid set of breathing people. Our good Lord calls His people sheep and reveals His infinite wisdom, for of all the silly creatures man has subjected to his uses the sheep is the most silly.

"The Lord said long ago, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.' He does not use the words foreign and domestic in the marching orders to His Church. He told, in the story of the good Samaritan, that all men are neighbors, and taught that all men are brethren. His disciples carried His Gospel everywhere.

"God made of one blood all the nations that dwell on the face of the earth. If you cannot reconcile it with your science, so much the worse for that science. There is a growing conviction, the old great conviction of humanity for centuries, to which our Lord Christ gave a fixed rational basis. We are men; nothing human can be foreign to us; He came to humanity, and He taught no special race. He shepherded no special flock. His words are for all lands, for all people, for all time. He died to redeem men, savage and civilized, white and black, European and Asiatic, and in the islands of the sea. In Him we are made one. He takes unto Himself the whole race, the islander of Fiji as well as the islander of England. The lowest as well as the highest.

"He cannot in any place or situation stand and talk sensibly of 'Foreign Missions.' The letters of His accusation written above His dying head are a prophecy: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' The letters are written in several languages, Hebrew and Greek and Latin. He is drawing all men unto Himself, even from the moment He is lifted up.