

given to those who are out of reach of good reading matter. This thought is emphasized by a letter from the Rev. Henry J. Indoe, of Newfoundland, which appears in the present number. That letter supplies, though in briefest outlines, some idea of the isolated circumstances of hundreds of families in the gulf colony. During one half the year or more their usual employment (fishing) is cut off, and there are no local industries to which they can turn their attention. Apart from the poverty which this must entail, time hangs heavily on their hands, which many of them would be glad to fill up with useful reading if it could be obtained. Brother Indoe suggests a plan by which Sunday School Superintendents and others could use surplus books and papers to good advantage, and confer a boon upon many an isolated settlement.

Christmas Greetings.

CHRISTMAS, merry Christmas, will soon be here, and family re-unions, exchange of gifts, open-handed hospitality, and a prevailing spirit of "peace and good-will" will be the order of the day. The inspiration of the angel's song is not yet exhausted, and human hearts feel the influence of the blessed Christmas time as much as and perhaps more than they did eighteen centuries ago. There is nothing in the world's history that parallels this simple fact. The very names of kings and potentates are almost forgotten, and the world's greatest conquerors are to-day but shadowy figures scarcely discernible through the mists of the past; but the name of Him who "was born in Bethlehem, of Judæa," nearly nineteen centuries ago, is a household word all over the world, and His personality dwarfs by comparison all other personalities put together. His truth is mighty; His kingdom grows with each revolving sun; and the day draws near when His sway shall be as universal as the light, and all the kingdoms of the earth shall call Him Lord.

It is meet and right that the Christmas season should be a time of gladness. It commemorates God's "unspeakable gift" to the world, and may well be signalized by gifts to one another. It brings to remembrance how peace and good will came to earth, and may well inspire us to deeds of kindest charity. We cannot bring our gifts of "gold, and frankincense and myrrh" to the Babe of Bethlehem in precisely the same way that the wise men did of old; but remembering the Master's words, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of my brethren, even the least, ye did it unto me," we can find many an outlet for our gifts that will not be unacceptable to Him. A common mistake of Christian people is to send all their gifts to those who do not need them, and withhold from those who do. But "if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same." Perhaps another word of the Master applies here. "This ought ye to have done, but not to leave the other undone." Doubtless within reach of each one of us there is some one whose

burden would be made lighter by some deed of practical sympathy, and our own lives would be all the brighter because of the kindness done to another. By all means let Christmas gifts have their place among those of our own households, but let us not forget the suffering and the sorrowful beyond our doors.

To all our readers we send cordial Christmas greetings, and pray for them the best blessings of the Christmas time

Young People's Missionary Day.

AT the last General Conference the last Sunday in December was set apart as Young People's Missionary Day. This Sunday will fall on the 29th inst., and we would urge our pastors, superintendents of Sunday Schools, and presidents of Epworth Leagues to signalize this day by such bright, interesting and enthusiastic services as will enlist the sympathy and co-operation of our young people. Let our young friends know the needs of the work, and that the Church is looking to them for loyal support, and we have little fear but that this important wing of the great army of Christian workers will rally around the standard. DO NOT OVERLOOK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY DAY.

Our China Mission.

LETTERS from the Rev. V. C. Hart, D.D., dated, respectively, October 28th and November 2nd, have been received at the Methodist Mission Rooms. Dr. Hart's health was so much improved that he thought at first of returning to Chen-tu, but a few days later circumstances were such as to render this course doubtful. There had been a good deal of excitement at the city of Chungking. None of the rioters at Chen-tu have been punished, and the Foreign Consul at Chungking will not at present allow missionaries to go west of that point. Some of the Canadian Methodist missionaries will take up their quarters at the city of Ichang, and await the earliest opportunity of going on to Chen-tu. Bishop Walden, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is in China, and he thinks that it will be better to wait until affairs are more settled before the missionaries go back to Sz-Chuan Province.

A Liberal Offer.

THE object of the publisher of OUTLOOK is not to make money. If it were, the price would be advanced forthwith. The object is to spread information, increase interest, and awaken enthusiasm throughout the Church on Missionary lines. What we want is a large circulation—to get the paper into every Methodist family, if possible. To hasten this desirable result we will also send a free copy for one year to any person sending us a club of eight NEW