

missionary societies, 700 foreign missionaries, and 7000 native preachers are at work, and about 1,000,000 of the population are already under Christian influences.

"The opening of China and the independence of Korea are events of great significance in the work we have before us. Japan has risen like a star from the horizon toward the zenith among modern nations. Her Red Cross Society and the army order inviting the missionaries to furnish every soldier with a copy of the New Testament are indications that the Japanese are not lovers of war, but may be expected to combine with the Western powers, so much admired by the Island Kingdom of the East, to substitute arbitration for the sword.

"The least-known country of the world has been Thibet, but by a new treaty with Great Britain through her Indian Empire, the first open treaty-port has been established beyond the border of that mysterious realm, whence the Mahatma will soon vanish under the light of Christian civilization.

"A young Englishwoman, a physician, has been escorted from India to Afghanistan by a special embassy from the Amcer, and has made an impression so favorable by her ministrations among the women of the court, that there is every reason to believe that she will be followed by others of her class, and that mountain kingdom will come into touch with the electric shock of the new century.

"This heritage of ours, the planet earth, has now been practically explored in every nook and corner, and every place will soon be so near to every other place that communication can be had from the centers of civilization to the circumference. The darkest, saddest spot, the 'open sore of the world,' is the Turkish Empire, from which happily many branches have already been knocked off, and others are practically sure to be—first of all hapless Armenia and Macedonia. Whatever evil tends to its own cure heaps up its own retribution—prophesies its own remedy; the blood of the Armenians revealed the wound. The sick man of Constantinople will find its territory closing closely round him, his malignant power will recoil upon himself, and Christian education and civilization may be trusted to lift even the Turk, the most malevolent member of our great family circle, to the level of decency and afterward decorum among the nations of the earth."

Bishop Taylor arraigns heathenism as

the same stupid, God-dishonoring thing as of old, when the people of Lystra declared that the gods "had come down in the likeness of men." As the bishop passed through Pungo Andongo, a king from the interior came to open up trade; so he arranged a cot in his own room for the repose of his majesty. Next day the king said to Mr. Shields, the missionary: "I heard in my own country of the bishop with the long beard. He is not a man at all; he is a god come down to men. Last night when he came into the bedroom I saw him take off his head (wig) and lay it down by his bed, and yet he had a head same as before. I was scared nearly to death, and trembled all over. If he had touched me then I would have died. He is the god that piled up these great Pungo mountains. If I could have got out of the room I would have run for my life, but the god was between me and the door, and I couldn't get out. When I go home to my people I will tell them that I saw a god, and came near to the end of my life." He could not be induced to risk his life in that room again.

There is a tree of death in Java. The natives call it the *Kali Mijah*. Its breath would kill birds and even human beings. One day when Rev. E. S. Ufford was chasing a bird of paradise, he noticed that it dropped suddenly to the ground, under a tree. He examined the tree, and began himself to feel strangely, as the odors from its leaves began to be inhaled by him. His head swam, and ringing sounds came to his ears as though he were being chloroformed. He hastened away from it, but procured a specimen and sent it to America, which, it is said, is the first one transplanted in our soil. "What a striking illustration this is of the tree of death, which has been planted in our fair America by the distiller! It has leaves for the blighting of the nations. I see the young, the middle-aged, the old, chasing the birds of pleasure, and then falling down beneath the dark