

* PALM BRANCH *

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JULY, 1895.

UR Prayer subject this month consists of a strange combination of words. The removal of "Covetous hindrances to Christianity." Is it possible that we, a redeemed race, by our extreme selfishness, and love of personal or national gain, can throw obstructions in the way of our Redeemer's onward march to the possession of His kingdom? We know that one of sound mind who obstructs the triumphal procession of an earthly conqueror will meet with the fate of a traitor. How long-suffering God has been to the British nation! Was Isaiah pointing with prophetic vision to us when he said (Isa. 26: 2), "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in?" If so, was he sarcastic? Did he mean that having the truth we were keeping it to ourselves? We do not wonder that Dr. Stephenson, whose own eyes look with sorrow, every day, upon the evils of the opium trade, and whose heart is constantly pained by sorrow, which he can do so little to assuage, should use strong, bold language, and say that he was "ashamed of being a British subject—that he hoped, if Great Britain would continue to force opium upon the Chinese, Canada would declare her independence." He feels that personal effort is more than counteracted by the action of a nation which should, by virtue of its professed Christian character, uphold him in all that is good. We do not accuse him of disloyalty to the British empire—we commend him for his intense loyalty to Christ! Doubtless too, he is afraid that, sharing the guilt of Britain, Canada will also share her punishment. "Shall I not visit for these things," saith the Lord. "Shall I not be avenged on such a nation as this?" Canada's own guilt, as regards the liquor question,

will, if not soon removed, involve her in the judgment that will surely come. It needs no prophet to proclaim this. Let us all be sure that we are personally righteous in every matter relating to the Kingdom of Christ, and then let us pray with all our hearts that it may come. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

There is a verse in the Bible—you will find it in 1 Sam. 12: 23—which contains these words: "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord, in ceasing to pray for you." All through the past week they have lingered in our minds as we have feared for the fate of the missionaries who have been in such peril in the Chinese empire. God forgive us if, for one day, we have forgotten to pray for our substitutes on that difficult field; for those who, in our stead, through dangers, unguessed by us, are doing noble work for Him. Now the glad news comes that though much property has been destroyed, these lives have been precious in His sight, and therefore preserved.

Any subscriber not receiving paper will please communicate with the Editor.

Thanks for the black-board lesson received. These lessons are always acceptable. Please elaborate as much as possible, though even the suggestions are helpful. Our young friends have done well this month, and have rejoiced the heart of the Editor. Some of the contributions she has been obliged to hold over, but that is all the better for her, as it is delightful to know that there is something to fall back upon.

We would call special attention to the interesting and instructive article on our first page, contributed by a greatly respected friend in Montreal. We trust it is only one of a series, which will prove highly beneficial to the young people of our church, coming as it does, with the voice of authority from one who knows whereof she speaks.

WORDS OF CHEER FOR WEARY WORKERS.

Among so many, can He care?
 Can special love be everywhere?
 I asked; my soul bethought of this,
 In just that very place of His,
 Where, He hath put and keepeth you,
 God hath no other thing to do.

A. D. T. WHITNEY.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Our third quarter begins in July—a good time for new subscriptions and clubs. We are glad to note the success of canvassers so far. Price of our paper is 15 cents single copy; 10 cents to clubs of 10 to one address.