

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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SEPTEMBER, 1896.

IS it possible that the end of another missionary year is really close at hand? How the days, months, and years do go by, to be sure! And we are going with them, on, on, to our account, —on to the future, whatever it may hold for us! Are we making the most of the time that is slipping as fast from us as the sand from the hour-glass? Looking back over this expiring year, is there more of pleasure or of pain in the retrospect? There has been good work done for Christ in all our fields this year, and the outlook is a hopeful one. Good work at home and abroad. But still the question must be a personal one for us all. What have I done this year? Have I done all in my power to spread a knowledge of Him and His plan for the world? It is individual work that tells! If every one—man, woman or child—who has had Christian advantages, had told some other one less fortunate, of a Saviour's love, do you think that there would still be hundreds of millions of people who have never heard of Him! Surely there is a great responsibility somewhere! We sometimes wonder how His disciples—His earliest disciples, Peter, and James and John—who were so eager, after the resurrection, to tell of Him, and even to die for His sake, how they would have felt if they could have foreseen that at the close of the nineteenth century there would be hundreds of millions of people in this small world who had yet to hear of Jesus Christ, their best friend. What is the prospect for the new year? It is good if you and I will come up to the help of the Lord.

GREAT BRITAIN has had some distinguished visitors of late. It is not long since Kama, the African Chief, who is a marvel to all, because of his wonderful development under heathen influences, visited her shores. Since his return to Africa he has been lecturing to his people on what he saw and heard in that

se-called Christian land. How much we would all like to hear those lectures, to know the impression made on his heart and mind!

And now Li Hung Chang, "China's Grand Old Man," has come to that civilized country, and with wide-open eyes and ears he is taking in all the sights and sounds so new and interesting to a foreigner. Just as we would do if we sailed away to the land of the Chinese. Of what importance will the visits of these men, so influential in their own countries, be to those countries by-and-bye? Will they tell for Christianity or against it? They will surely tell for civilization, but we all know that a Christless civilization is a failure. All history has proved it so. Do the Christians of Britain realize that they are posing as an object lesson to the people of Africa and China for the teaching of good or evil? Let us pray that they may do so now, if never before. Li Hung-Chang has not yet embraced Christianity, being perfectly satisfied, if we may believe him, with his own religion; but he has tolerated, and been kindly disposed to it on account of the physical help it has brought to his countrymen.

We have labored under some disadvantages this month—so many of our friends have gone to the country and the sea side. We miss the Circle and Band Notes, which we know are always interesting to our readers.

We are very much pleased to have Mrs. 'Morrow's helpful little story of Martha (Ah Hoe), the Chinese girl. Such bright teaching cannot fail to do good. We much appreciate Mrs. Morrow's kindness in sending it.

Last month part of our Editorial remarks were crowded out. We spoke of the good work done by Miss Hargrave in Manitoba, during her furlough there, in the interests of the PALM BRANCH and otherwise. Miss Hargrave kindly says she will always be interested in our little paper, and glad to hear of its success. She sails on the 24th of this month for Japan. Let us remember it, and follow her with our good wishes and prayers.

We have not touched on the retrospect and prospect of the PALM BRANCH, leaving that to a later occasion. Indeed we prefer, at all times, to let our little paper speak for itself, in its own modest way. We, however, heartily thank all our subscribers and contributors for the help they have kindly given us; and are pleased to be able to say that our subscription List has nearly reached 3,000 this year. That is the retrospect. We cannot yet speak of the prospect.

We would call special attention to the Nova Scotia Branch notice on last page.