

school. The Rev. E. S. Booth was to have given the open-address, but being unable to attend, the Rev. Geo. Meacham, D.D., was called upon, who, after heartily congratulating the ladies and gentlemen present, the Principal, teachers and students, on the occupation of the capacious additions and the spacious chapel, delivered an eloquent and forcible address.

THERE is a society in Tokyo composed for the most part of Christian Japanese women. It is called the Kyofu-kai, or Society for the Correction of Morals. The ladies composing it hold occasional lecture meetings, inviting distinguished men to speak on subjects relating to morality. They are even reported to have decided on presenting a memorial to the Government with reference to polygamy. Strictly speaking, polygamy is not practised in Japan at present; indeed, it has never been legal; the law acknowledges only one wife, but concubinage is not uncommon. It is also understood that the ladies of the Kyofu-kai emphasize in their memorial the moral side of the question, positively asserting that the most efficient moral remedy for the evil they complain of is Christianity.

THE *Missionary Review of the World* for August is on our table, and, as usual, is crowded with interesting information and stirring articles on various missionary topics. We would specially call attention to the leading article on "Islam and Christian Missions," which is alone worth more than the price of the magazine. We are sorry not to be able to give the name of the author, but it has been withheld, says the editor, for prudential reasons. The writer, with extraordinary interest and ability, deals with the greatest missionary problem of the day, and one the Church must confront if she does her duty. The other departments are all ably sustained. To our ministerial brethren who desire to keep abreast of the times regarding missionary work, we heartily recommend the *Review* as being, by all odds, the ablest and best periodical published. Edited by P. M. Sherwood, D.D., and A. T. Pierson, D.D. Published by Funk & Wagnalls, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York. \$2.00 per year; in clubs of ten, \$1.50.

AFTER the death of Rev. R. G. Wilder, formerly Presbyterian missionary at Kolapoor, India, his wife asked to be allowed to return with her daughter and resume work as a Bible-reader at her own expense. They sailed November 26th. Mrs. Wilder at one time had a school of three hundred girls, and instructed a large number of native women, who regard her as a spiritual mother. A son, now studying for the ministry, intends to join them in India in due time.

## Editorial and Contributed.

### THE GREAT MISSIONARY FAILURE.

BY his article in the *Fortnightly Magazine*, of the above title, Canon Taylor startled the Christian world and awoke echoes which have not yet died away. While we have been feasting our hearts on the signs of hope, have we been utterly deceived, and are the facts from the fields but so many "spirits of the deep" waving us off from our work with multiplied gestures of despair? Are missions a hopeless failure?

In the first place, *it is none of our business*. The Master has given His command, "Go and disciple all nations." Our business is *to go*—to go though the fogs of seeming failure overhang all the work—to go, though no cheering voices come to us through the misty gloom and doubtful twilight—to go to work, and weep and pray and wait the unfolding of the years of God, and trust against appearances the wisdom of His counsels and the almightiness of His love—to go, even though, like other children of faith, we but greet the promises afar off, and die in faith not having received them.

A gunner, who had been left standing alone on a knoll in the thick of the fight at Waterloo, was asked afterwards by Dr. Cook, of Belfort, what he saw. "Saw," said the man, "I saw nothing but dust and smoke." "What did you do?" "Stood by my gun." To stand by our guns is our business.

But what are the facts? Since Canon Taylor's amazing attack, the facts and figures relating to missions have been subjected to a sifting and scrutiny never before equalled. The result has been an exhibition of a solid array of evidences of marvellous progress; and the Church of God is gazing on the miracle of missions, and in its quickened zeal is consolidating its forces for wider and more statesmanlike attack upon the strongholds before us. Canon Taylor's jaunty sally has been answered by the roar of some heavy artillery. He states his case thus: The non-Christian populations reach to 920,000,000 in Asia and Africa; the annual increase must be 11,000,000. The annual increase of Christians due to missionary work is 60,000. It would, therefore, take 183 years to overtake the non-Christian increase for one year. Taking the statistics of the Church Missionary Society, with an annual increase 3,211 converts, it would take that Society 2,750 years to overtake the non-Christian increase for one year; while if the population of the world would remain stationary, 330,000 years to convert the world, or 1,000,000 years if the relapses are taken into account. It would take eighty-five Societies in India, at their present rate, to