

vance guard of an army who are ready to take the field as soon as the Church is ready to give the word.

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THE Gospel leaven is stirring mightily among the millions of India. From the Central Provinces comes the following:—"I am persuaded, in my own mind, that the most eventful period in the history of Missionary effort in this country is rapidly approaching. The Lord is preparing for a time of glorious ingathering." From the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church, this is the testimony:—"Never, in my somewhat long experience, were the claims of India apparently so urgent as now. A restless, almost feverish, spirit of inquiry pervades the community." A missionary of the American Board, at Madura, after showing how the missionaries are "driven to the verge of desperation and ill-health," by their inability to overtake the necessities of the work, adds:—"We thank God that we have recently received into our Mission Circle one of that large band of consecrated students. How we long, and pray, and write, and implore, that more be sent." And so it goes on all over the country.

Editorial and Contributed.

CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

BEFORE another number of the OUTLOOK makes its appearance, Christmas, with its sacred and joyous associations, will have come and gone. Gladdest of all our *holy* days—not holidays—let us hail its advent with songs of thanksgiving, and with renewed vows of loving loyalty to the "new-born King,"—now no more the Infant of days, but the Ancient of Days, acknowledged and worshipped round the whole earth. Nearly nineteen hundred Christmas suns have risen and set since the Wise Men hailed the Morning Star; but the Christmas that is about to dawn has a significance all its own, in that it stands nearest of all the series to the "year of jubilee" that is surely coming, and of which men now living will see the glory. The whole world is open, and all nations are stretching out their hands unto God. Let it not be forgotten that the great purpose for which Jesus lived, and died, and rose again, was that the Gospel—the good news—might be preached to "every creature." May the coming Christmas be signalized by the going forth of a new evangelism.

REV. ALFRED ROBERT TUCKER has been consecrated at Westminster as bishop of equatorial Africa, to succeed Bishop Parker, deceased, who succeeded Bishop Hannington, who was assassinated.

ABOUT OURSELVES.

WITH the present issue the OUTLOOK closes its tenth volume. Intended to supply the place of the *Missionary Notices*, which had been discontinued, the OUTLOOK was begun as a private enterprise, but its usefulness became so apparent that it was speedily adopted by the General Board as the missionary organ of the Church; while in more recent years, its usefulness has been increased by making it the medium of record for "Womans' Work" in connection with the great missionary movement of the day. For all these years the OUTLOOK has endeavored to fulfil its mission of keeping before the people the salient features of a world-wide evangelism, especially as affecting the Methodist wing of the missionary army, and may fairly claim some share of the credit for the steady growth of income which has characterized the past, as well as the wisely-aggressive policy that has marked the history of our mission work.

It is very desirable, as every one will admit, that the OUTLOOK should keep fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to the greatest Christian movement of the age. This will demand enlargement of size and scope, and a large increase of editorial work. Hitherto, the whole work has been done as a labor of love by the General Secretary; but it has to be done in such odd moments as can be snatched from the pressure of other duties, and work so done must be, more or less, imperfect and unsatisfactory. If the OUTLOOK is to be a power for good in arousing and directing the missionary enthusiasm of the Church, more heart and brain must be put into it than is possible under present circumstances. We would have rejoiced if some contemplated changes and improvements could have been introduced at the beginning of the ensuing volume; but as this seems to be hardly practicable at present, the paper will continue for one year more in its present shape and size, with such attempts at improving its contents as circumstances will allow.

There are two ways in which our brethren—and sisters, too—can greatly aid us at the present time; that is, by using their pens to enrich the pages of the OUTLOOK, and their best efforts to increase its circulation. In regard to articles, they must be short, for our space is very limited, and they should be crisp and to the point, or they will not be read. Further, let them be in good, vigorous prose, for we have already more poetry (?) than we can use. Such articles, supplemented by brief reports from the missions—bulletins from the field of battle—will increase the readableness, and, consequently, the interest of our missionary paper. Then as to circulation, though fairly good, as such things go (nearly 7000), it ought to be four times as