

arrangements for the voyage had been made in this city with the vessel owner, the latter wheeled around from his desk and said, with a smile of superior sagacity, "So, Mr. Morrison, you really expect that you will make an impression on the idolatry of the great Chinese Empire?" "No, sir," replied with emphasis this pioneer missionary to the Middle Kingdom, with its hundreds of millions, and then utterly closed against all foreigners—"no, sir; but I expect that God will!"

—The *Free Church Monthly* does well to recall that in Tahiti fourteen years passed without a convert—now there are 850,000 Christians in Western Polynesia. At the end of ten years Judson had only 18 to show as the fruit of his toil; since then the rate of increase has been so great in Burmah that during the interval a new church has, on an average, been established every three weeks. Ground was first broken in China in 1813; now there have been gathered into the Church nearly 50,000 converts. In Fiji the Wesleyans entered in 1835, when the darkness of heathenism reigned everywhere; but in 1885 there were 1300 churches in the group, with 104,000 habitual attendants on public worship.

—Somebody has discovered that there are three kinds of Baptists—the Mission variety, the Omission, and the Antimission; and it is to be feared that our brethren of this name are no worse off than their neighbors.

—Three missionary societies have passed the million-dollar mark, to wit, the English Church Missionary Society, which is also almost halfway toward two millions; the Methodist Episcopal, and the Presbyterian; nor are two or three more so very far behind.

—Robert Louis Stevenson has never been classed with "religious fanatics," and after wide observation of the facts in the case he puts himself on record in these words: "I had conceived a great prejudice against missions in the South Seas; and I had no sooner come there

than that prejudice was at first reduced, and at last annihilated. Those who deblatterate against missions have only one thing to do—to come and see them on the spot."

WOMAN'S WORK.

—How did women's missionary organizations come to be? "Experience proved that no nation can be elevated until its women are regenerated; also that no man, whether clerical missionary or even physician, could carry the Gospel to the jealously guarded women of Oriental households. When the degradation and sufferings of Asiatic women and the darkness of their future were revealed, the conscience of Christian women was aroused."

—The first woman physician to India was Dr. Clara Swain, in 1869; to China, Dr. Lucinda Combs, in 1873; to Japan, Dr. Florence Hamisfar, in 1883; and to Korea, about four years ago, Dr. Meta Howard—all sent out by the Methodist women.

—Only three women were present at the recent Decennial Missionary Conference at Bombay who attended the first one in 1872—Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Johnson, and Miss Isabella Thoburn. Then only two papers were presented by women; but no one thought of the authors reading them, much less of women speaking before the Conference; but in 1892 they had a place on the programme, and full liberty in the discussions.

—It is scarcely a figure of speech to say that "woman is the corner-stone of heathenism." Notwithstanding their degradation, heathen mothers have immense power over their sons. The fear of a mother's curse prevents many Chinamen from listening to the claims of the Gospel; and an intelligent Hindu exclaims: "It is the women who maintain the system of Hinduism."

—Missions in the East have secured the warm interest and support of two well-known women—Miss Gordon Cumming and Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop,