

science ever bestowed upon him, but it is the only map upon which the world can be seen at one view with each place lying in its proper direction.

Mercator continued to work on bravely; everything which he did bore the stamp of genius. For a quarter of a century he labored in the production of a collection of maps of all the countries in the world—but he did not survive to see it completed. He died on the 2nd December, 1594, at the advanced age of eighty-two. His last words were a request to the clergyman to pray for him. He was buried in the church of S. Saviour, at Duisburg.

His son Rumold walked in his father's footsteps. He completed the collection of maps which he published in 1595, under the title of 'Atlas,' which his father had chosen for his work, and which ever since has been universally applied to a book of maps.

The people of Duisburg erected a statue of Mercator in their town, to show how highly they valued his merits.

Victorian Indian Orphan Society.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the work of the V.I.O.S. we are giving a brief account of the work from the beginning. The Society is interdenominational and has its headquarters in Winnipeg, while its field of labor is among the famine children in India.

The terrible famine of 1877 and 1899 which appalled the whole civilized world, and appealed so strongly to the most ordinary feelings of humanity, roused the deepest compassion for the starving millions and afforded an opportunity to rescue a number of children whose parents had perished. Unknown to us, in the midst of the direst distress and want missionaries were praying for the very help we have since rendered, and we at home were honored by the Master in being made the instruments through which these prayers were answered and permitted to rescue some of the poor famishing little ones. God truly works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, and He tries the reins and the hearts of men, for it was not easy to help in those days. Times were hard, and the distance was great. Oh! how far away seemed the places to which we thought of sending aid, and the cry there are plenty at home who require our help, was ever in our ears as it always is even at the present day. In order to make any headway at all a great deal of self-denial had to be practical by our members to enable us to contribute funds for the end we had in view. With the aid of the Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, we were enabled very soon to have a hundred children. Their aid took the form of allowing two of their missionaries who were already on the spot to take upon themselves the additional work of caring for the children free of charge, which enabled us to use all the funds collected towards maintaining the children, building an orphanage and carrying on the work without having the expense of paying for a missionary.

Deeply grateful we feel to the two missionaries referred to above, the Rev. Frank Russell and Dr. Margaret O'Hara who have never spared themselves day or night in caring for and training these heathen children. The children were starving, dying. What we wanted was to save them and give them the knowledge of Christ as their Redeemer. Many have passed through the school, some have become teachers while a number have been married to Christians, as they are not allowed to marry otherwise, and so have formed Christian homes and the Society has not permitted too early marriages. The great spiritual awakening which passed over many parts of India lately was strongly manifested among the children of the Orphanage. Their power for memorizing Scripture is amazing and would put us to the blush. Some have gone to help others more unfortunate than themselves, we refer to the poor lepers, and we are now establishing an Industrial Home, and so our work is going on and branching out. Our Father has graciously smiled upon this work, it has continued to progress.

In a recent letter from Dr. O'Hara, she reports that at the close of the year 1908

there were 58 girls in the Orphanage, two of this number were married this year.

In the early summer of 1908, owing to the high prices of food in India, the Society sent out fifty dollars per month extra for three months, and it was gladly received.

In July the rains came and corn was planted which was a great help as it grows and ripens quickly. With the extreme heat came malaria and a number of the children were ill, but all recovered. During the time of scarcity eight new girls came into the Orphanage, but four of these were withdrawn by their relatives, four remain, and the year closed with sixty girls, and ten boys in the boys' department.

The report of the All India Sunday School Examinations shows that our children have again met with great success, nearly all passing. One of the girls who attend the Orphanage School went to Bombay to write on her examination and passed receiving a medal, also one of those writing in Dhar received a medal, one boy, Galyia by name, took 70 per cent while a number of the girls took high marks. The children are usually contented and happy and speak in such grateful terms of the kindness and care shown them.

Another branch of our work is the supporting of native Evangelists, two of whom are kept by friends of the Society at \$60.00 a year each, while another friend sends money for a Bible-woman at \$32.00 per year. The membership fee is \$1.00 a year, membership with 'Northern Messenger,' \$1.25, while \$17.00 per year with membership, total \$18.00, will keep a child.

All wishing to join in this interesting work kindly communicate with the Secretary Treasurer,

Mrs. A. T. Taylor,
205 Maryland Street,
Winnipeg.

The Devil's Old Men.

I met a man one day on his way to the place where prayer was wont to be made. He had just passed the milestone of his life labelled 'Seventy years.' His back was bent, his limbs trembled beside his staff, his clothes were old, his voice was husky, his hair was white, his eye was dim, and his face was furrowed. Withal, he seemed still fond of life and full of gladness, not at all put out with his lot. He hummed the tunes of a familiar hymn as his legs and cane carried him along.

'Aged friend,' said I, 'why should an old man be merry?'

'All are not,' said he.

'Well, why then should you be merry?'

'Because I belong to the Lord.'

'Are none others happy at your time of life?'

'No, not one, my friendly questioner,' said he; and as he said more his form straightened into the stature of his younger days, and something of inspiration set a beautiful glow across his countenance.

'Listen, please, to the truth from one who knows; then wing it around the world, and no man of my threescore years and ten shall be found to gainsay my words: The devil has no happy old men!'—Tract.

Religious News.

'On my first visit to the Mohammedan quarter of this city, after returning from furlough, I sold more than forty Chinese Gospels in an hour; these were bought by the rank and file of Moslems outside the mosques, who understand no Arabic. But the Chinese Gospels are within their reach; for although rice and food stuffs are terribly dear, owing to a succession of bad crops, we are able to sell the small Chinese Gospels at the rate of twenty-five copies for 3d. The Light is spreading; and whether by the sales of the Chinese Gospels, or by the gift to 'mollahs,' priests, and students of the more highly priced Arabic Gospels, we are striving to lead these poor deluded Moslems to "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."—The Bible in the World.'

The Welsh colonists in Patagonia are by no means unmindful of their hereditary connection with the Bible Society. There are several Welsh churches among them, and we have just received in London a generous contribution from two Calvinistic Methodist con-

gregations in the settlement on the River Chubut. The church at Glan Alaw sends £7 12s. 4d., and the church at Bryn Gwyn sends £18 16s. 4d., in addition to a remittance for a number of Welsh Bibles and Testaments which are being dispatched to our friends in this remote region for their Sunday-school. The colonists themselves speak Welsh and English; their children are being brought up to speak Welsh and Spanish.

There is a Chinese anti-opium league in Honolulu, Hawaii, which is uniting its efforts with the anti-opium crusade in the Celestial Empire. It has been busy obtaining facts about the use of opium in Hawaii, of which the following is a summary: There are 98 places in Honolulu alone for smoking opium; there are 14 importers of opium, who import each year about 400 boxes; there are about 2,500 Chinese who smoke opium, about 38 American men and women and over 30 Hawaiians. On the plantations and at other places in Hawaii, there are many who use the drug. These facts indicate that the United States Government needs to enact some anti-opium legislation.

Few people realize that the Chinese empire embraces in its immense population a multitude of Moslems. According to the 'Statesman's Year Book,' there are 'probably about 30,000,000 Mohammedans' in China, chiefly in the northwest.

Writing from Yunnanfu—2,000 miles inland from the eastern coast of China, the Rev. F. Herbert Rhodes says: 'I note that your Society has very kindly granted us 25 Bibles and 500 Gospels in Arabic. These will all be employed, God willing, for the sole use of Moslem priests and students at the mosques. In Yunnanfu, which is a Mohammedan center, we have access to many mosques. Moslem leaders and 'mollahs' visit us here, and urgent requests for Portions of Scripture in Arabic come from mosques as far distant as thirty days' journey away. I have long desired to place an Arabic copy of the Word of God in each of the principal mosques. Some years ago I did this in one Moslem stronghold, and since then I have often been asked by some 'mollah' or other for an Arabic Bible, but have always had to refuse. My own copy I keep for the use of visitors, and have marked it so as to be able to turn up Old Testament predictions of our Lord Jesus Christ for the benefit of Arabic scholars.'

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