

BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

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The Regions Beyond, Home and Foreign Mission Jottings.



A WORD TO THE WISE.—The field is the world. *Whose, for whom?* Rome believes that she ought to be supreme, that she is destined to be supreme, and that it is the duty of every member of her Communion to enforce the attainment of this destiny. For this end she fills the land with her priests, her schools, her monasteries, her numeries, and her colleges. She makes her influence felt in the Legislature, and in the Press, and she seeks by every art to enrol amongst her votaries the members of our noble families, the representatives of our wealth and influence. Her reasoning in this matter is strictly logical. Cardinal Manning states.—

"England is the head of Protestantism, the centre of its movements, and the stronghold of its power. Weakened in England, it is paralysed everywhere; conquered in England, it is conquer'd throughout the world; once overthrown here, all is but a warfare of detail. All the roads of the whole world meet in one point, and this point reached, the whole world lies open to the Church's will."

Let us not sleep, but watch and be sober. The Lord of the harvest demands earnest toil and fidelity to *His own Word*. For after all the true remedy for the world is the Gospel, lived and preached by every true christian—*let your light so shine*—how long would the world sit in darkness, and have no light, if all heeded this injunction? How vast the field home and foreign. Only think of London, G. B., the population in 1882 was 4,890,022 (four millions, eight hundred and ninety thousand and twenty-two), with an annual increase of 90,000 souls, equal to 246 persons every day. There are added 60 houses every day or 22,000 in a year to that vast city of commerce. Strange the mingling of light and darkness, wealth and poverty. How great the need of consecrated effort to leaven such a mass of sun-blighted humanity.

Who is sufficient for the work in heathen lands? Our returned missionary, brother Churchill, tells us of the gross darkness which covers many parts of the field and places where the population exceeds in density anything we can calculate upon, and should God give a speedy harvest, the harvesters are so few, great sacrifice will be called for and no small responsibility will rest upon the church at home. Let all who know our sisters Wright and Hamilton pray as they go to reinforce the band in India that a wide and effectual door may be opened unto them. Our bro. Churchill and his wife, now that they have returned

to rest and recruit, need our prayers that they may stir much missionary zeal, and be spared to return to carry on the work for which they have laid the foundation. We must stay the pen and gather more news.

Up in the Country.

During our visit of a few days in June to Avonport, the Lord wonderfully made us a blessing, a revival started and has since continued. During the past three weeks the work has evidenced itself to be of the Lord. July 16th a sister writes, "the work is still going on, we had a good meeting last evening, 25 young converts spoke of their sense of pardon and happiness in Christ. There are about ten young men and boys; two men rose last evening. The young men and women have each started prayer meetings, and they are doing a great deal of good. Surely we are led to exclaim, What hath God wrought! What reason we have to praise Him. The work goes on so quietly, and seems so deep." When writing in last month's Buds, "Eventide Musings," and planning to hide away for a week of quietude and rest, little did the writer, think what the purpose of God was. Weak and worn he went to the union meeting-house, and in leading the Sabbath evening prayer-meeting felt so mightily the power of God that he asked the anxious to arise, and most unexpectedly to God's faithful few, some twenty young people rose, and the breaking down was strongly evident. The people requested a meeting on the morrow evening, which only showed the fire was kindled by the Spirit, and the writer will long remember the anxiety of those who came to see him after the meetings at the house where he stayed. Strength failing and seeing God's hand so directly, we left that He might be honored, and the above extract shows our weakness prevented not, but magnifies His grace and strength in the good work.

It is said that the most of the Chinese converts to Christianity who have returned to China, stand firm in their profession.

THOUGH the Baptists labor under great disadvantages in Sweden, 46 new Baptist churches were formed last year, and 3,623 converts were baptized. There is now in Sweden 16 associations, 371 churches, 402 preachers, 25,777 Baptists and 23,310 children in their Sunday-schools.

At the time of the union of the Presbyterian churches, 12 years ago, there were 3,512 members in the native churches connected with their foreign missions; now there are 18,656, an increase of over five-fold.