

MISSION NOTES.

(From the *Missionary Herald*.)

—The attitude of any local church towards the great religious movements of the day will be determined very largely by its minister. It has been truly said that "there is not a pastor in the land who has any real stuff in him but can make a missionary body of the church he serves."

—The favour so far shown our brethren on the way to Central Africa by the Kings of Bailunda and Bihe, as recorded among the letters, should call forth our deepest gratitude. While we would not put our trust in princes, and are prepared to hear reports of great fickleness on the part of these African rulers, we may well be encouraged by the reception they have offered the missionaries whom they recognize as not like the Portuguese padres, because, among other reasons, they "do not use or give away any *aguardente*."

—Our missionaries in Central Turkey are in peril among false brethren. The element claiming to be Protestants, yet restive under the strict though Scriptural discipline of our mission churches, would give little trouble, were it not petted and made active by the support of ecclesiastics of ritualistic tendencies from England, with their lavish promises of pecuniary aid. The wrong is a flagrant one. If their action be not of the nature of schism from which the ritual of these ecclesiastics requires them to pray the Good Lord to deliver them, then we know not what schism is.

—The perils attending the commencement of missionary operations in Africa are by no means confined to white men. The sad intelligence has been received by the American Missionary Association that Rev. K. M. Kemp, a young coloured clergy man from the South, a recent graduate of Lincoln University, who joined the Mendi Mission last April, and was stationed at Good Hope, has fallen in death. But not the less because of the perils involved in proclaiming it does Africa need the gospel, and heroic men, both white and black, will be ready, we doubt not, to face the dangers.

—On the last Prize Lists of the University of Glasgow the names which appear most frequently in the departments of mathematics, engineering, and natural philosophy are those of Japanese students. Two of these young men carried off four prizes each, and another, three. Sir William Thompson, in presenting the prizes, referred to the high merits of these three Japanese students, saying that they excelled not only in written papers but also very remarkably in *viva-voce* examinations, showing a wonderful appreciation of everything that was said, and a remarkable power of expressing their ideas clearly in English. The fact that young men from this Empire so recently opened to the world are taking the first prize in the foremost universities, is suggestive as to the quality of the Japanese mind, and the kind of work and workers needed in that land.

—The efforts of our missionaries to prevent the cruel warfare to which the natives of the Gilbert Islands are sadly prone, are incidentally mentioned in the letter from Mr. Taylor on another page. It is singular that while our brethren are so earnestly engaged in preventing these conflicts, sometimes failing, the story started nearly a year ago by some profligate traders at Tapiteuca, that the natives were instigated to fight by the missionaries, should be travelling around the world, appearing here and there in new forms. This slander will probably be made to do duty for some time to come. Having had its day here the

story reached the Fiji Islands, and within the month has come back in an Associated Press despatch made up from a Fiji newspaper, affirming that a thousand natives were killed. The pen of the writer was far more deadly than the club of the savage, slaying more than three to his one. When our missionaries are listened to by the natives of these islands these wars will cease, as in the instance Mr. Taylor mentions.

—The *Foreign Missionary* gives a good answer to the question which is sometimes raised as to how it happens that the contributions through Woman's Societies often exceed the regular annual collections in the churches. It suggests annual that many of the men who hear the appeal from the pulpit drop into the collection box the loose change at hand, and think no more of the matter. But their wives join a society and subscribe one, two, or five dollars at the outset and then, as interest increases through the monthly meetings, they add smaller sums, which in the end amount to a good deal. The children, also, in their bands, though giving little at a time, give often, and the sum of the yearly offerings of the little ones not seldom exceeds the pittance given by their fathers. We fear it is true in churches of all denominations that comparatively few of the men give more than a passing thought to the great work of missions. They are seldom or never at missionary meetings where the theme is presented. They know next to nothing of the work carried on, of its vastness or its success. And they give little, because they know little of what they are called to give for. Is not here a suggestion to pastors as to their pulpit ministrations?

—A delightful meeting was held in Pilgrim Hall, Boston, on Wednesday, August 3, at which greetings and farewells were given to several missionaries who were about to leave for the foreign field: Rev. W. H. Gulick and wife, returning to Spain with Miss Susan F. Richards, of Auburn-dale, who joins the Spanish Mission; Rev. Robert Thomson, son of Rev. Dr. Thomson, the agent at Constantinople of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who joins the European Turkey Mission; Miss Charlotte L. Turner and Miss Lottie Manross, who go as teachers for the Kohala school at the Hawaiian Islands; Miss Susan Webb, returning to the Dakota Mission; Rev. Martin L. Stimpson and wife, and Miss M. A. Holbrook, M. D., going to north China; and Dr. and Mrs. Francis O. Nichols, designated to the West Central African Mission, at Bihe. Besides these persons who were present, special remembrance was had of Rev. W. P. Sprague and Mrs. Mary P. Ament, who are returning to North China, and Rev. and Mrs. I. J. Atwood. Messrs. Stimson and Atwood are the first of the North China Band at Oberlin, to start for their field of labour, hoping after their arrival to enter upon work in the province of Shansi, and to be followed soon by reinforcements from Oberlin, already pledged to this undertaking. In connection with prayers and songs, brief addresses were made by the departing missionaries, as well as by Rev. Mr. Tyler, of Natal, Rev. Mr. Park, of Bombay, and Hon. Chester Holcomb, the latter of whom, though not now enrolled on our list of missionaries, is yet doing efficient service to all Christian missions in China while acting as Secretary of the U. S. Legation. The pleas made by the missionaries for their several fields were very impressive, and Mr. Holcomb, saying nothing upon public affairs, made a thrilling statement as to China's need of the gospel. We wish that any persons who have imagined that these so-called Farewell Meetings are for sighs and tears could have shared in the cheer and inspiration of this service at Pilgrim Hall.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NOTES.

—Mr. Spurgeon prefers the old New Testament to the Revision, which, he thinks, is a valuable addition to our versions, but will need further revision. In his opinion the New Testament company "are strong in Greek, but weak in English."

—It is reported that there are in Great Britain 355 Baptist preachers who were trained in Mr. Spurgeon's Pastors' College. During the last twenty-five years, 43,336 persons were received by baptism into churches whose pastors came from this college.

—The late Wesleyan Conference gave official sanction for 320 new chapels and enlargements, at an estimated total outlay of £260,000, affording additional accommodation for 20,000 persons. But isn't the average rate of \$65 a sitting rather high for building chapels in the old country?

—A new fanatical sect has arisen near Chicago, called Overcomers. They claim to work miracles, and believe in the salvation of all, even of the devil. They are described as a "complete jumble of fanaticism, Irvingism, modern perfectionism, and deluded ignorance"—probably, mainly, the latter.

—The *Catholic Telegraph* says there are now less than 7,000,000 members of the Roman Catholic Church in this country, whereas, if she had retained all her children, she would have had from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 members. It attributes the loss to the influence of the public schools.

—Under the title of a "Quaker Conquest," Miss Frances E. Willard, in the *Boston Advertiser* of Aug. 19, describes in a graphic way, the wonderful change which has been wrought among the fierce Modocs of the lava beds by the efforts of a Quaker preacher and teacher, and particularly of the success of temperance work among them.

—The *Advance* thinks the following advice given to young missionaries by Dr. Tyler, for many years among the Zulus, would not be amiss for those trying to do good at home. Be cheerful. A long face is a breach of the peace. A habitual smile is worth a thousand dollars. The heathen are blue. They go daily with downcast eyes and sorrowful faces. They have no God but devils. Their entire life is one of fear. Their religion excites nothing so much as anxious dread. Christianity is hopeful. Let its promises gladden the heart and the face also. The Gospel you preach will thereby double its power. We think that the advice is equally good to missionaries who stay at home. More are disgusted with the gloom of some religious professors than we suppose.

—A correspondent of the *Hartford Religious Herald* from Chicago reports that open air meetings there seem to be solving, in part, at any rate, the difficult problem of reaching the masses with the gospel. Between twenty and thirty of these meetings are now held every week, and there is no reason, save lack of zeal, why five times that number should not be held. The methods are extremely simple: a few gather and sing, perhaps for fifteen minutes; then some brother, generally a minister, speaks as earnestly and pointedly as he can, fifteen or twenty minutes longer. We have been surprised at the eagerness with which the gospel message has been received. The auditors have been orderly, respectful, and as quiet as if in church; and, though it is too soon for any marked results to appear, we cannot doubt that good has already been done. The interest here in religious things is quite unusual for the season. We cannot but hope that autumn and winter will be rich with spiritual harvests.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

—The Court of Appeal has reduced the sentences passed on the six disturbers of Pope Pius Ninth's funeral. Signor Bacco, Quaestor of Rome, has resigned in consequence of the disturbance.

—Lieut. Condor, of the Palestine Exploration, recently stated in Edinburgh that their survey had identified 140 scriptural sites in West Palestine, so that 430 out of the 630 mentioned in the Bible were now fixed.

—A portion of the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral is owned by descendants of French Protestant refugees who fled to England to escape persecution, and who have used the crypt for worship. The church worshipping there recently celebrated its 331st anniversary.

—It is said that H. R. H. the Princess Maude, daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales, has shown promise of the most extraordinary vocal power. Indeed, music has become with her so great a passion that, in deference to both medical and musical advisers, it has been found necessary to lay temporary interdict upon her devotion to her favourite study.

—A rumour has run widely through Europe that the Pope was considering the question of leaving Rome. The only place suggested as the new residence for His Holiness is Malta. The reason assigned is that in Rome the Pope enjoys neither "liberty nor security." The Italians seem to be thoroughly indifferent as to whether he goes or stays. The Vatican is a subordinate element in the policy of the kingdom of Italy.

—Among the many results of the railway, the noble St. Bernard dog must go. Not necessarily will he become extinct, but as the rescuer of the foot traveller upon the St. Gothard he will be known no longer. The great Catholic charity of St. Bernard will come to an end in a few months. The railway under the Alps will draw travel away from the mountain road, and poor indeed must be the man who will undertake the weary tramp and risk the avalanche for the sake of saving a little railway. The mission of the St. Bernard monks will have been accomplished, and their record will go upon the pages of history as perhaps the most noble, beautiful, and touching in the annals of the world. Their work is done, and they will close their doors amid the grateful thanks of all civilized people.

—Under the heading "Lorne's Libations," one of our city daily contemporaries says: "Twelve hundred dollars' worth of liquor was specially imported by Lord Lorne for use on his trip to the North-West, and was passed free through the custom house here. A local dealer got a large order for an additional supply, and this, too, was taken out of bond free of duty. Owing to the enforcement of the law against liquor in the North-West, it is impossible to get anything good in that country, and so His Excellency was compelled to provide a little beforehand." There may possibly be some exaggeration in this. It is not at all likely that a parliamentary committee will be appointed to investigate this matter as in the case of Lieut.-Governor Macdonald's famous "corkscrew" expedition; so the exact truth in the premises will probably never be ascertained, but when such very large estimates as the above pass current there must surely be some foundation for them. It is much to be regretted that the Governor-General of Canada has countenanced two of the most glaring evils which disgrace our country—Sabbath desecration and the free use of intoxicating liquors; the latter charge being very much aggravated by his introduction of strong drink into a territory where it is absolutely prohibited by law.