

Editorial and Contributed.

Editorial Notes.

"THOU crownest the year with thy goodness." "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits?" We have come again to the month in which a day is set apart for praise and thanksgiving on account of mercies bestowed. How meaningless that word "thanksgiving" is to many in this fair Dominion; and yet there is not a people on the face of the earth who has more reason to say from a grateful heart, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." True the times have been stringent, and many have had to dispense with luxuries, and many to curtail the actual necessities of life, while a few have found it difficult, if not impossible, to keep the wolf from the door. Still, may not these trying circumstances be the outcome of a Father's loving care for His children—His calling a halt that we may take our bearings? Christ says, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." In this money-making and money-spending age, there may be a danger of the love of the world and the things of the world creeping into the Church, and a forgetting that "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." That there are lessons to be learned from these times that try men's souls, there can be little doubt; and in our thanksgiving for life, health, peace, and protection from epidemics, fire and many serious calamities that have befallen other countries, ought there not to be a humbling before God and a searching of heart as to the motives that govern the life?

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the Methodist Church, or about eighty-one cents per member, for missions, is surely not asking impossibilities. "Where there's a will, there's a way." If each brother and sister be determined that they will find a "way," the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for missions is a settled thing. We only pass once this way; let our treasure be banked in the country to which we are going, to go in and out no more forever, rather than in the one we are passing through for the first and last time.

THIS cheering note, enclosing a cheque for \$500, reached the Mission Rooms within the past fortnight:

"Noticing by the *Guardian* that our Missionary Society is unable to pay the full amount of the salaries which the missionaries are entitled to receive, I thought I would try and help a little towards improving matters. I therefore enclose cheque, value \$500, which please consider as my subscription for 1895."

Times without number the General Secretary has asked that moneys be remitted as early in the year as possible, thereby saving large bank discounts. This brother has set an example that it is earnestly hoped many will follow, and thus aid to tide the society through this especially trying year.

THE question has been asked again and again during the past few months, "What effect will this war have upon China?" As in the past God has made the wrath of man to praise Him, so doubtless this war will be the means of hastening the day when the eyes of the Chinaman will be opened to the fact that China is only one among many nations, and that there is something yet for her to learn. To-day the presence of a foreigner in that country is looked upon with suspicion. Dr. Hart, in his report regarding our work in that country, says:

"The universal thirst of this people for money, and its effects upon their lives, shut them out from all philanthropic enterprises, and dwarfs everything but selfish feelings and aims. It is difficult for the very best of the people to understand our object in being here. They, of course, charge us freely with concealed designs, and in many cases they believe us to be acting in the interest of our Government."

While this universal lack of confidence in foreigners exists, together with the predominating idea that there is nothing for them to learn, little or no progress can be made. Rev. H. H. DeForest, D.D., who spent twenty years in Japan and has recently returned, writing in the *Missionary Review* regarding the outcome of the war, finishes his article with the following paragraph:

"But the greatest blessing to be looked for will probably go to China. Aggressive war from her little neighbor will awaken her to a recognition of modern thought and modern methods of international intercourse. It will force her to a stronger internal policy, so that there can be a well-organized national army in the place of her almost worthless provincial "braves," and so there can be railroads, telegraphs and postal systems worthy of a great power—a necessity to the existence of a central Government. This war will do much to compel China to have an educational system that shall break down the superstitions and shall open up the resources of the empire. And all this will begin to break the force of that unfortunate anti-foreign sentiment that exists all through the land. God hasten the day when China shall move forward!"

For a length of time Japan has asked for treaty revision, and the delay in granting the request has been very exasperating to her; but at last her desire to be accepted by the other treaty powers as an equal and wholly independent nation is to be gratified. England is the first to exchange "equal treaties" with Japan, but, without doubt, other nations will follow. For the first time we have now the accepting of a non-Christian nation by treaty powers without the ex-territorial clause. As one writer expresses it, "the old East and the new West have come together for better or for worse."

Missionaries have been worried and annoyed in regard to obtaining passports permitting them to travel in the interior, or to reside outside of the "concession" in the "open port." When making application for a passport, one of two reasons had to be assigned, "For the sake of health," or "For scientific research."

Any foreigner desiring to own property or reside outside of the "concession" was obliged to depend