

Lady Harlow stood up, and laid her hands on the bowed shoulders. Her own eyelids were blinking, and her lips twitching.

"My dear," she said. "Look up, my dear; you are a brave girl. I can respect brave people; and though you may say you are an impostor, I say you are both truthful and honest, and truth and honesty are more to be desired in a companion for my children than any manner of accomplishment. Miss Kent, we shall suit each other. You will enter on your duties as governess to-morrow, if you please."

Nor, though Lady Harlow took other means to insure her daughters' writing elegant hands, and still considered their doing so a matter of first rate importance, was she ever heard, even by those who knew her most intimately, to deplore Muriel Kent's penmanship.

(Concluded)

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

INDIA—CHURCH BUILDING AND MUSIC.

Dr. Grundemann concludes in the April number of the *Allgemeine Missions Zeitschrift* his interesting and valuable observations on mission work as he saw it in India. He takes up the questions of architecture, sculpture, painting and music in their relation to the spread of Christianity. In regard to church building, he regrets that in large towns and at head stations European styles of architecture are employed. On the score of coolness, so desirable in a hot climate, he doubts the wisdom of putting up Gothic churches, while he thinks it would not be easy to make Hindus enter into the symbolic significance of spires pointing heavenward. As he says, it is exceedingly difficult to arrive at a knowledge of the real thought and feeling of natives with regard to such matters. They are so accustomed to give replies suited, as they hope, to the wishes of foreign questioners. But Dr. Grundemann quotes the words of a Tamil, who expressed his opinion that when any of his fellow-countrymen accepted Christianity they ceased to be regarded as Tamils by the rest. And this may arise in no small degree from the foreign character of the church buildings and church arrangements with which they are henceforth connected. Dr. Grundemann thinks that the attempt should be made to follow, in regard to building and other matters, the Indian ideal of beauty, and so avoid that marked departure from national idiosyncracies which tends to produce the conviction that native Christians become members of a foreign race. Indian notions of beauty may be distasteful to us, but our ideas are probably equally distasteful to them. On the far more difficult subject of music and singing, Dr. Grundemann throws out some notions worthy of consideration. There is, he says, a Christian Indian national music, and at Ahmednagar he heard three men, one an aged pastor, sing and play, the subject being prayer—Christian, as compared with heathen, prayer. He says he could not share the pleasure evidently felt by the crowd in the music and singing, yet the whole scene made a deep impression in his mind. He expresses the wish that, in addition to Christian hymns, harmless and pretty songs could be written, especially for children. In an orphanage he found girls joining in a dance and singing a hymn on the sufferings of our Lord. Another remark he makes is, and with this we conclude: "Above all, children should be taught to sing after the manner of their people and not according to our melodies."

SUMATRA—WONDERFUL PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL.

In our February number we gave a few facts respecting the work of the Rhenish Missionary Society in this Dutch island. But the whole story of the progress of truth among both the heathen and Mohammedan population is such as to warrant us in referring to it again, and at greater length: The history is unfolded in *Der Missions-Freund*, No. 1, 1892. The island of Sumatra is as large as Sweden, and has for some time been in possession of the Dutch, except the Malay kingdom of Acheen, in the north. Several tribes inhabit the island, but it is chiefly among the Battas that the missionaries have laboured. Previous to the establishment of Dutch rule the Mohammedan Malays sought to propagate their religion by the sword, but under the Dutch they have found their task much easier. The officials appointed in the various districts were Malays, and they used their influence and persuasion to such an extent that when the missionaries first began work at Sipirok they found the whole district subject to Mohammedan influence, and had not mission work begun when it did, the whole Batta nation would in ten years or so have accepted the doctrines of the Koran. Now, among these once savage and even cannibal Battas, there are 1,800 Christians. As many as eleven native pastors have been ordained, while eighty-eight others are working as preachers and teachers, assisted by 272 elders. The territory of this Batta Mission is divided into two unequal parts. In the southern and smaller half there are four head stations, and twenty-one sub-stations (Sipirok, etc.). Here heathen are scarcely to be met with. The 2,500 Christians live among 70,000 hostile Mohammedans. The work here is thus very hard. In the northern divisions there are fourteen head-stations and sixty sub-stations. Scarcely any profess the Moslem faith. The power of heathenism is broken, and at Silinding almost the whole population has been Christianized. Turning now to the southern part of the field, the missionaries report that their people have much to suffer at the hands of the Mohammedans. While in Silinding, in the north, people are almost ashamed to be heathen, in Sipirok it is a disgrace, in the eyes of the fanatical Moslems, head men and village rulers, to be a Christian. The chief mosque is at

Sipirok. The head man of the town lives opposite. Fanatical Hadjis (men who have made the pilgrimage to Mecca) are, or we may perhaps say were, sent to all parts where Christianity seems to be finding an entrance. But these missionaries of the False Prophet do nothing to instruct the people in their religion. The Koran has not been translated into the Batta language, and the missionaries affirm that multitudes of the Mohammedans know not whether they worship one god or several. In face of this persistent opposition and persecution the missionaries have been permitted to gather around them 2,000 converts, as we have seen. Indeed, God's hand has been so visibly with them that the Mohammedans themselves have been filled with wonder. Take the following instance: A Mohammedan resolved to go to Mecca, for the purpose of returning a full-fledged Hadji, qualified to pursue the war against Christianity. The missionary knew the harm that would be done if the man were able to accomplish his purpose. So he and his people prayed that God would defeat it. Tidings came of the man's having reached Mecca, then of his leaving, and of his landing again in Sumatra. The day of his arrival at the station was fixed. He came nearer and nearer, and great preparations were made at Bungabondar to give him almost a royal reception. The Moslems laughed at the missionary and his praying people. But lo! the day before he was fixed to arrive he was seized with illness and died, and so it was a corpse and not a living man that was brought to the village. The event made a deep impression on all. This, and similar circumstances, have wrought in favour of the Gospel. The altered attitude of the Dutch Government towards missions has also contributed to make the task of the missionaries easier. Now, instead of holding quite aloof or even opposing missions, they counsel the people to send their children to the mission schools. And so it has come to pass that hundreds of Mohammedans have embraced the Gospel. Taking the whole island, 250 were baptized in 1890, and more than 500 were receiving instruction with a view to the rite. In the northern part of the island is the lovely valley of Silinding, which, with its 11,000 Batta Christians, presents a cheering site on the Lord's Day, as husband and wives and children repair to the house of God. The triumph of Christianity here may be said to be complete, several chiefs who long opposed the truth having now become humble disciples of Christ. The missionaries attribute much of their progress to the labours of Miss Needham, an English lady, who, reading of the wonderful work in Sumatra, offered her services to the Rhenish Missionary Society. It was an entirely new departure to employ the services of a lady, but they were accepted, and now several German ladies are labouring in various parts of the field, two in Sumatra. Miss Needham's energetic efforts among the women and children have been greatly blessed. At her own cost she has put up a meeting-house, where they can gather for worship, study of the Bible, etc. The recent development of this mission has been chiefly in the direction of the Toba Lake, which was first seen by a missionary in 1875, and work was not begun there till 1880. Hundreds of converts are grouped at the various stations, and schools are rising in every direction. The station of Laguboti lies on the frontier, between the Dutch territory and the free Batta land. This latter district is thickly populated, and great interest is evinced in the Word of God, which the missionaries are beginning to proclaim there. Several stations have been formed, and a rich harvest of souls is hoped for. We rejoice with our German brethren in the wonderful blessings God has vouchsafed, and we trust they may be able to say, at no distant day, that Mohammedanism, as well as heathenism, has disappeared from Sumatra.

MR. EUGENE STOCK, editorial secretary of the Church Missionary Society, and the Rev. R. W. Stewart, of the Fuh-Kien Mission, are on their way to the Australian colonies as a deputation to friends of their Society in that part of the world, with the view of helping them to promote a fervent missionary spirit. On the occasion of their dismissal, one of the speakers referred to the importance of the mission as requiring both a head and a heart, and happily characterized the deputation as "a very warm-hearted head, and a very clear-headed heart."

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THE ONTARIO MUTUAL LIFE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 22nd Annual Meeting of The Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company was held in the Town Hall, Waterloo, Ont., on Thursday, May 26th, 1892, at one of the clock p.m. As usual on such occasions a large number of prominent and representative policy holders were present from various parts of the Dominion, all of whom manifested a deep interest in the proceedings.

The President, Mr. I. E. Bowman, M.P., having taken the chair, supported by the Manager, Mr. Wm. Hendry, on motion of Mr. W. H. Riddell, the Secretary of the Company, acted as secretary of the meeting. Having read the notice calling the Annual Meeting, on motion the minutes of last annual meeting were taken as read and adopted, whereupon the President read

THE DIRECTORS' REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Directors have much pleasure in submitting the following Statements to you as their report on the financial position of the Company as at the 31st December, 1891.

During the past year 2,019 policies were issued for assurance amounting to \$2,694,950, being an increase of \$346,800 over the previous year.

The total number of policies in force at the close of 1891 is 11,621, covering assurance for \$14,934,807.38 on 10,504 lives.

The premium income for the year is \$456,706.65, and we received for interest on investments the sum of \$90,913.46, making our total income \$547,620.

The total assets of the Company have now practically reached two million dollars, and our surplus to the credit of policy holders is \$155,559.23.

The Executive Committee has again carefully examined the investments and found the securities all in good order.

You will be called on to elect four Directors in the place of B. M. Britton, Q.C., of Kingston, F. C. Bruce, Esq., of Hamilton, John Marshall, Esq., of London, and J. Kerr Fiskien, Esq., of Toronto, all of whom are eligible for re-election.

I. E. BOWMAN,
President.

Copies of the Financial Statement for the year 1891, containing a detailed account of Receipts and Expenditures, of Assets and Liabilities, certified by the Auditors, having been distributed, the President moved the adoption of the Report. He pointed out that the increase of new business over 1890 was \$346,800, while the expense ratio was less than the previous year; that the total amount of assurances on the Company's books, Jan. 1st, 1892, was nearly \$15,000,000, a net gain for the year of \$1,224,000, that substantial gains were made, not only in items above referred to, but in Cash Income, in amount paid to policy holders, in Reserve for the security for policy holders, in total assets and in surplus over all liabilities, while the death losses were much less than the expectation and the lapse ratio was only about two thirds of that of the previous year. He congratulated the members on the steady and healthy growth of the Company and on its high financial standing, second to none in Canada. He was pleased to see so many policy holders and agents present, showing the deep interest taken by them in the prosperity of the Company. Concerted and harmonious action between the Head Office and its agents, which happily existed, and a faithful conservation by all of the Company's interests in all matters affecting its welfare, would ensure a continuance of the gratifying success that has marked its career during the past twenty-two years.

Mr. R. Melvin, 2nd Vice-President, supported the motion. He cordially endorsed what the President had said concerning the undoubted prosperity of the Company, and the large share the agents had in bringing it about. The decline in the lapse rate was a noticeable feature of the year's operations, and, taken in connection with the low death ratio, afforded convincing proof of the wise and prudent selection of risks. The falling off in the interest rate on recent investments as compared with former years, though common to all companies, would, he hoped, be counterbalanced by savings from mortality and rigid economy in every department of the business, thus enabling the Company to continue its liberal distribution of surplus as in past years. Others having spoken, the various reports were unanimously adopted.

On motion, Mr. Geo. Wegenast, Waterloo, and Mr. Charles Leyden, Hamilton, were appointed scrutineers. The balloting resulted in the re-election of Messrs. B. M. Britton, John Marshall, Francis C. Bruce and J. Kerr Fiskien for the ensuing term of three years.

Messrs. Henry F. J. Jackson and J. M. Scully, having been re-elected Auditors, and the customary vote of thanks to the Board, the Officers and Agents, having been tendered and responded to, the meeting was brought to a close. The Directors met subsequently and re-elected I. E. Bowman, President; C. M. Taylor, 1st Vice-President, and Robert Melvin, 2nd Vice-President of the Company for the ensuing year.