

MISSION FIELD.

VOICES FROM INDIA.

BY JULIA H. JOHNSTON.

Hark! From far distances, voices are calling,
Hushed be earth's clamor; be silent and hear.
Thrilling the heart with sad cadences falling,
Come the appeals in their syllables clear.
India's daughters, in cloistered zenanas,
Knowing no song but the breath of a sigh,
While we are chanting our joyous hosannas,
Send o'er the ocean their heart-breaking cry.

Lips that are muffled, yet utter their story,
Oh, the sad plea of their multiplied wrongs.
Grim superstition, grown ancient and hoary,
Shuts in dim prisons these languishing throngs.
Little child-widows, with piteous pleading,
Beaten and scorned, with no hope of release,
Call to us blindly, their woes interceding,
Claiming from us the sweet message of peace.

Hark! How it strengthens, the chorus unending;
Voices are silenced, but new voices cry;
Anguish, and fear, and despair, sadly blending,
"Come thou and help us, for soon we must die."
Yet, there is mingled with sore lamentation,
Exquisite notes of rejoicing and praise;
Some have received the glad news of salvation,
Carried afar, o'er the sin-darkened ways.

Daughters of light, as you listen and ponder,
How your true hearts with compassion are thrilled,
Knowing full well that for multitudes yonder
Jesus the cup of salvation hath filled.
Bear it or send it to those who are dying,
Pleading in faint, inarticulate speech;
Still on the strength of Jehovah relying,
Answer these voices that cry and beseech.
Patria, Ill.

A CALL FROM KOREA.

BY MRS. ISABELLA BIRD BISHOP.

I came to Korea a fortnight earlier than I had intended in order to attend the Presbyterian Annual meeting, and I am very thankful that I did so, for I have not elsewhere seen such an earnest, cheerful, whole-hearted body of men and women, with so completely one aim in view and so much in harmony in the way of carrying out. The accounts of work, specially of that in Pyeng Yang district, were absorbingly interesting. The harvest so far has fulfilled the promise of a year ago. The hearts of all present burnt within them, as we heard these reports, and the feeling of gratitude found fitting expression in the hearty singing of the doxology. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." But I confess that I feel very bad about the prospects for Korean work, unless the Church awakes to a sense of what the situation really is. I have no special interest in Korea, and in the three years of travel now drawing to a close, I have visited over one hundred mission stations and am not conscious of having felt a greater preliminary interest in the work at one than at another. But I am bound to say that the needs of Korea, or rather the openings in Korea, have come to occupy a very outstanding place in my thoughts, and I should not be justified in withholding my view of them.

The Pyeng Yang work which I saw last winter, and which is still going on in much the same way, is the most impressive mission work which I have seen in any part of the world. It shows that the Spirit of God still moves on the earth, and that the old truths of sin, judgment to come, of the Divine justice and love, of the atonement, and of the necessity for holiness, have the same power as in the apostolic days to transform the lives of men. What I saw and heard there has greatly strengthened my own faith. But it is not in Pyeng Yang only, but here in the capital, and especially through the women's work, of which Mrs. Gifford is such a noble and faithful representative, that the seed sown so long in tears is promising to yield a harvest, if the reapers come. And tho, in lesser degree, there are signs elsewhere that the leaven of the Gospel is working.

The door is opened wide in Korea—how wide only those can know who are on the spot. Very many are prepared to renounce devil worship and to worship the true God, if only they are taught how, and large numbers more who have heard and received the Gospel are earnestly craving to be instructed in its rules of holy living. I dread indescribably that unless many men and women, experienced in winning souls, are sent speedily, that the door which the Church declines to enter will close again, and that the last state of Korea will be worse than the first. The methods of the mission are admirable in the training of the Christians to self-help. They are helping themselves to the limit of their means. Also admirable are the methods used for fitting the Koreans to carry the Gospel intelligently to their brethren. This work alone requires four times the number of men already in the field to carry it on! Yet on it perhaps more than on

any other agency hang our hopes for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in Korea. Truly "a great door and effectual" is opened; I sadly ask—is it to close again? Your Church is rich in the silver and gold which are the Lord's. The abandonment of a few luxuries on the part of your members, with an increase in the spirit of self-sacrifice, might mean eternal salvation to many in Korea, but what a fearful responsibility it will be if the door closes! There are men and women willing to come to Korea if a moderate sustenance be provided. The money value of a ring, of an evening dress, of a carpet, of a seaside trip, would support a laborer for a year; I write strongly, I dare not apologize. I have been compelled to feel strongly by what I have seen and heard in Korea.

LOOKS INTO BOOKS.

The *Presbyterian Quarterly* for April is a more than usually vigorous number. The first place is given to an article on the "Old Testament Canon," by W. W. Elwang, which may be a little startling to some orthodox readers who have accepted traditional views in an easy going way, but is an honest and reverent attempt to look squarely at the known facts. Dr. Wright discusses "The Speculative View of Faith"; Dr. Dabney sounds a note of warning as to the threatened "Decline of Ministerial Scholarship" through the multiplication of special cases. Dr. Witherspoon vigorously protests against the undue exaltation of pedagogic methods in the Sunday school. Dr. Cameron criticizes "Ian MacLaren's Mind of the Master." Dr. Ferguson calls attention to the "Decadent Tendencies in City Life." Dr. Gordon contributes a somewhat pragmatical discussion on "Probation, Death, and Judgment," in which he utterly fails to take account of the imaginative element in New Testament eschatology. Mr. Martindale unfolds the banner of "Presbyterian Polity." The remainder of the space is occupied with the usual book reviews, which, if not very numerous, are at least trenchant enough. Richmond, Va., Whittle and Shepperson. \$1.00 a year.

LATEST EXCAVATIONS IN NIPPUR.—Recent excavations in Babylonia, under J. H. Haynes, have brought to light authentic records which, as made clear by Professor Dr. H. V. Hilprecht, carry back the history of the race to an earlier date than was known before. Their archeological value is even yet little known and faintly appreciated. The latest excavations disclose historic data transcending in importance the most sanguine expectations at their start. A record of the explorations which secured these results is now to be published, under the auspices and by the authority of the Department of Archeology and Paleontology of the University of Pennsylvania, under which the Babylonian Exploration Fund carries on its work. The volume will include the personal narrative of Dr. Haynes, director of the expedition since 1892, and member of the earlier expedition in 1888, as expanded and supplemented by Dr. Hilprecht, Assyriologist of the expedition from the beginning, and editor-in-chief of the publications of the Babylonian Exploration Fund. It is to be illustrated by seventy or more maps, plans, and other plates, including sketches of its most recent important finds. The volume is to be issued by John D. Watt & Co., of Philadelphia, corresponding in style with "Recent Research in Bible Lands," as edited by Professor Hilprecht. Price, \$2.50. It will be published simultaneously in the United States and Great Britain.

A MANUAL FOR RULING ELDERS. Containing the laws and usages of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. in relation to ruling elders and other church officers, church sessions, and congregations, with introductory matter, notes and suggestions by the Rev. Wm. Henry Roberts, D.D., LL.D. 16mo, 459 pages, \$1.00 net, postage 10c. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board. Toronto, N. T. Wilson.

There is always a demand for a book which would furnish in a systematic and concise form information to ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church in relation to matters connected with their office and work. The American General Assembly, therefore, recommended the preparation of a "Manual for Ruling Elders," and the work was entrusted to its Stated Clerk, Rev. Wm. H. Roberts, D.D.

The scope of the Manual is very comprehensive. It is arranged in six main divisions, the first, introductory, containing a brief statement respecting the history and principal doctrines of the Westminster Standards, and an exhibit of Presbyterian principles and church government and of the history of the church. The following sections relate to the office of the ruling elder, the church session, the church and congregation (including pastors, deacons, and trustees), rules for judicatories, and forms for sessions.

The Manual is a reliable guide to their ecclesiastical law, and also a valuable aid on many points of church usage. Quotations are freely given from the Constitution of the Church and from the deliverances of the Assembly. In addition, many topics of interest are dealt with in the way of suggestions and by historical notes. The book is very comprehensive, but not diffuse. It touches upon every question that can be raised in reference to the duties of elders and sessions, and their relations with each other and with the congregation.