

# The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, February 20, 1896.

## The American Board and Japan.

THE strong and representative Committee sent by the American Board of Foreign Missions to investigate the condition of their work in Japan, has just completed its labors and published its report. In substance it advises that the Board shall continue its labors in Japan, but not send new laborers there except under extraordinary circumstances. This means the ultimate withdrawal of the missionaries after a term of years. The Committee found the reports as to the spread of heterodox views greatly exaggerated. The number of pastors and teachers who have departed from the orthodox faith can be counted on the fingers of one hand, and these have all been partly educated in Europe or America. The Doshisha University, in Kyoto, founded by Neesima in 1875, has, however, except in the theological department, largely lost its Christian character by coming completely under native influence, and cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The educational work among women on the other hand is regarded as deserving the highest commendation and the fullest support. On the whole the report is reassuring. But there can be no doubt that the present time marks a most serious crisis in the history of mission work in that very progressive empire. Native Japan is no longer disposed to be guided by foreign influence, and a good deal depends upon the amount of genuine spiritual life that may be found in the native churches whether evangelical teaching will triumph now or only after a serious lapse into a cold rationalism.

## Bible Problem Lotteries.

A LOTTERY of any kind is immoral and is supposed to be forbidden by our laws. A lottery in which the Bible is made to furnish the cards is blasphemous as well. No terms less vigorous than these can fitly describe the iniquity of a method adopted by certain journals to increase their circulation. Certain simple questions are asked regarding the Bible which any child should be able to answer in five minutes with absolute accuracy, assisted by a concordance. The first correct answers received, also the middle and last ones, entitle the writers to rewards of greater or less value, some of them being Bibles or Testaments. It is almost purely a matter of chance which letter out of the first return mail will be the first to be opened and be awarded the prize of highest value. It is equally a matter of chance which shall hold middle or last places. Such a device may escape the letter of the law, but it is nothing better than a lottery pure and simple. No respectable journal should have anything to do with it. No paper that values its reputation should lower itself by advertising it. We call upon the religious press especially to denounce it, and help to create such a healthy public opinion as will deprive it of success. We cannot afford to have our young people inoculated with the deadly poison of the gambling

vice by any publication whatsoever, however praiseworthy its aims in other respects. Unless they promptly withdraw from all complicity with the scheme this alone ought to exclude them from any share in the support of the respectable portion of the community. A paper which will knowingly pander to the gambling vice cannot be trusted to have a right moral tone on other matters either, and should be refused admission into any decent home.

## Foreign Mission Funds.

REV. R. P. MACKAY, Foreign Mission Secretary, writes: Will you allow me to draw the attention of your readers to a few facts:—

1. That the General Assembly's estimates are for this year, \$71,118.00 for the General Fund, and \$44,273.00 for W.F.M.S. work.
2. That the funds of the W.F.M.S. cannot be applied to the work carried on by the General Fund. It is for women and children.
3. That if congregations in making their appropriations lean upon what the W.F.M.S. are doing, and do not deal generously with Foreign Missions, we shall certainly have a deficit and serious embarrassment.
4. That last year we were saved from a deficit by a legacy amounting to nearly \$12,000. No such legacy has come this year, and we have by new appointments largely increased our responsibilities.
5. That the work in our Mission Fields is steadily growing, and if we are to gather the fruits of our own labors, we must increase the staff from year to year. To go back and withdraw missionaries would certainly not be creditable, an intolerable reproach to the Church.

These points are often repeated, but are not yet recognized by many congregations. We simply ask an equitable distribution of funds, having due regard to every other scheme of the Church.

Hierarchial Demands The Belfast Witness, one of the ablest and most welcome papers which reaches our exchange table has the following trenchant remark to offer on the question of a state endowed Catholic university for Ireland: "We hinted in our last issue, in reply to the Spectator [London] that nothing would satisfy the Romish Hierarchy but supremacy and control. The Dublin Evening Mail, we observe, had been writing in the same strain. Bishop Dwyer has challenged it to give any proof for its assertion that nothing would content the Bishop but complete possession of the reins of government in such an institution as a Catholic university. The Mail has accepted the challenge, and given in proof this extract from a speech of the Bishop's, delivered in Limerick in July last—'The liberal endowment of a great separate Catholic university entirely under the control of the Roman hierarchy could not of course injure the Protestants.' We shall await with much interest the bishop's rejoinder to this. But doubtless he knows how to say *distinguo*. It is supremely sad to see that the Spectator continues, in its issue of last week, to follow the bishop in his lead, for it says again—'Side by side with the Dublin University we would give the Roman Catholics a well-endowed university of their own.' Just so. And the Spectator is foolish enough to think and to say—'We should give the Roman Catholics what will really content them.' Content them? If you will, then, O Spectator, restore the temporal power, burn your Bibles, open the Inquisition, close up the columns of your heretical and Protestant press, shut up all your Protestant and heretical places of worship; for, *Roma locuta est*, Rome commands all this. She never changes. Dost thou not know her proud boast, O Spectator."