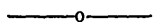


Several additional chaplains and missionaries have been sent to India, and the most pleasing intelligence is received of the large and comprehensive scale on which our educational establishments there are conducted. Between the three great seminaries, there are I think, more than 80 *native* teachers alone, the great proportion of whom are Christians, a by no means common occurrence. The Home Mission Scheme is prosecuted with fresh life and energy. Deputations have been visiting the various chapels and stations to enquire into their circumstances, and to urge them to greater zeal and effort. In Glasgow, a new and exceedingly beautiful church has been built at Kelvinhaugh, chiefly for the poorer classes; this, one would not think so, to judge from its appearance, its beautiful stained glass windows, and sonorous bell. All the money had been raised for it but some £500. However, Dr. McLeod is not the man to leave his work half finished, and so a grand bazaar was got up which was held the other day in Glasgow, at which a sufficient sum was obtained to pay off the debt.

I suppose that you have seen ere this, the new monthly "Good Words," ushered into existence two months ago under the editorship of Dr. McLeod. Its success has been quite extraordinary, though quite warranted by its excellence as a periodical and its splendid staff of contributors. Of the second or February number, fully 35,000 copies were sold, and the publishers do not at all think that they have reached their limit. The illustrations by members of the Scottish Academy, and J. B. (Mrs. Blackburn, the wife of Professor Blackburn) are a new feature but a great attraction, executed as some of them are in the highest style of art. In the February number there is an admirable article from the pen of Dr. Caird (for he has lately had the title D. D. bestowed upon him) on "Symbolism in the Christian economy," which is characterized by all that classical culture and fine psychological intuition which belong so eminently to him. Altogether it is the cheapest sixpence worth of literature published in Great Britain, and I cannot help feeling proud that it is a minister of the Church who has been thought worthy to conduct the only periodical at which members of the Established Church of England and of Scotland and of every dissenting body of any importance in the kingdom work harmoniously together for the spread of "good words" among all ranks of the people. Truly, "good words cost little," yet are they endued with a mighty magic when accompanied "with demonstration of the spirit and with power." God fasten many of the words as good in sure places!



NOTES ON CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

There are four great religions in China. The oldest, and the one still possessed of

most vitality, is the Confucian. All the learned and governing classes—the philosophers and the courtiers—profess it, and are frequently very zealous disciples. Of the other two the Buddhish is the most influential and most widely accepted, but like almost every other form and fashion of Paganism, is now well nigh dead and in need of speedy burial. It still has its bonzeys or shaven monks by tens of thousands, its pagodas, rites, and holidays; but it seems pretty well agreed that like everything else earthly, it is soon destined to go "the way of all the earth." An incident narrated to me by one who had long resided in China, shows that now, even where we would expect intolerance and fanatical zeal, there is only sleepy indifference and unbelief. He made an excursion once, he said, along with a naval officer to their sacred island of Kootoo, a place as holy to them as Mecca to the Mohammedan, or Benares to the Hindoo. They walked up a long avenue, lined with trees and paved with granite, beautiful snatches of scenery opening out here and there, to the principal temple. As they entered the court, the most profound silence reigned; but some pigeons making their appearance, the captain fired and brought one down before my informant could prevent him. Two hundred years ago, or even within the one-fourth of that time, such an outrage would have cost the offenders their lives on the spot, for the bird is esteemed sacred by them. But instead of that, the bonzes came tumbling out of their dormitories by hundreds, delighted at the excellent shot that had been made, and offering to show the "foreign devils" where more pigeons were to be had. All the time my friend remained with them, he did not see an instance of sincere and intelligent devotion to their creed. They were very kind, but so abominably filthy that it was not at all nice to get in among a crowd of them; and as to their cast-off clothes, most gingerly handling of them was necessary. They are a lazy, sleepy, useless pack of loons, who consider that the great Chinese device and emblem of "a mouth and a handful of rice" expresses the highest want and satisfaction of men.

One of the greatest questions that the Christian Church has to consider is, how are the 350 millions of China to be brought from their present state of practical Atheism and money-worship to Jesus Christ? Till this is done, all their ingenuity and labors are naught. What is it to the world and the sublime interests of humanity that they have endured for thousands of years, that they can grow tea and make silk, and that they have discovered laws physical and mental, if they are never in their views to reach up to heaven, but ever to remain grubbers on the earth; if they are to tramp round in the same monotonous circle of earthly concerns for generation after generation, without advancing, without coming nearer to God, with