

Religious Intelligence.

MISSION BOARDS.

In the glorious month of October, when all nature is transfigured and bedecked with purple and gold, the great Missionary Societies of our Church have their annual assemblies. The General Board of Missions of the Methodist Church met in the town of St. Mary's, October 10. It held a very successful session. One of the most encouraging features was the report of the tidal wave of revival which is sweeping over the great empire of Japan. Many thousands of persons are inquiring the way of salvation, and there are being added to the church daily such as shall be saved. Steady progress towards the unity and solidarity of Methodism in the presence of a consolidated heathenism is being made.

The great disasters which befell mission work in China through the Boxer rebellion affected our own Church less heavily than many other Churches. While our missionaries were compelled for a time to leave their work, yet their property has been preserved intact, and the missionaries are already returning to their posts. The venerable Dr. Hart, who has thrice gone as leader of Methodist missions in that land, and has thrice been expelled from his field of work, though impaired in health, is as full of missionary zeal and energy as ever. The mission press, which he recently planted in Chentu, has already achieved a marked success. It has distributed many millions of pages of Gospel truth, and is capable of a very great expansion. His appeal on this behalf, recently published in *The Guardian*, should stir every soul and lead to the more vigorous support of this important propaganda of religious truth.

The income for the year is \$270,312.29, an increase in every item except that fluctuating one of legacies. Dr. Sutherland announced the rallying cry of the Church, the purpose of raising half a million for missions.

MISSIONARY FINANCE.

This seems a large amount, but the irrefragable logic of figures shows how this result may be accomplished by the trivial sum of a cent a day from each member of the

Church. The only difficulty is to get all to do their share—to arouse the multitudes who do little or nothing from their guilty apathy, to induce them to feel the luxury of doing something for the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom. The cent a day should be minimum—all can give this. Many now give ten times as much, and some give in our own Church a hundred, two hundred, three hundred times as much; and among our richer neighbours in the United States there are men who give over \$100 a day to the cause of God.

The New York Independent, speaking of the M. E. Church of the United States, says, "The financial resources of the Church, with its nearly 1,800,000 communicants, are scarcely touched. They never can be adequately reached under the present system or lack of system. Fifteen hundred thousand dollars a year would not be too much to expect from the Church if the Church had an opportunity to know its privilege and duty."

Money is poured out like water for the gratification of men's appetites or for frivolous pleasures. Men who spend from ten to fifty dollars a year for tobacco often plead that they cannot afford to give a dollar to save the world. The drink *boni* of Great Britain and the United States alone is \$1,450,000,000 a year—with twice as much more as the cost of the traffic.—while the contributions of all the Protestant Churches of the world, for the conversion of the heathen, have never amounted to \$10,000,000 a year. The value of kid gloves imported into New York, says Mr. Croll, is ten times as much as the amount given by all the societies in America to foreign missionaries. In that city, it is said that \$7,000,000 are expended annually in theatre-going and kindred amusements, and that \$125,000,000 are expended annually in silks, satins, laces, and other fancy goods. There is money enough and to spare.

During the last ten years, the conversions, in proportion to the numbers employed, have been thirty times more numerous in heathen than in Christian lands. Lo! the fields wave white unto the harvest; let us pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into the harvest.