

must, indeed, seem plain and simple. Some of these beliefs are reflected in the theosophy of to-day. How persons can question the truths of God's Word, with whose illustration human experience is so closely allied, and yet accept the monstrous traditional fabrications in theosophy, is matter of wonder. Through all these various beliefs, however, there appears a sort of acceptance of human depravity and the idea that wickedness in this life must be expiated.

It is said that Mohammed accepted most of the Old Testament, and Dr. Thoburn gives it as his opinion that a truly converted Mohammedan becomes in many respects a superior leader. The system of caste in India, which obtained 3,000 years B.C., is gradually giving way before the encroachments of travel and education. There are about two and a half million Christians in India. Women missionaries are an absolute need in the evangelization of the country. There are now over seven hundred women at work, foreign and Eurasian. These have 62,414 girls in mission schools, and have access to 40,513 zenanas.

The Dark Continent, as Africa is sometimes designated, is said to contain a population of 162,000,000, about one-fourth of whom are Mohammedan, three-fourths pagan. There are about 3,500,000 Christians, of whom half are Copts and Abyssinians, and the rest Roman Catholics. Many Churches have established Missions—forty-two societies being at work, with 781 male and 687 women missionaries. This work is chiefly in the countries bordering on the coast. Millions, probably, in the interior, have never yet heard the story of the Cross, and are to a great extent cannibals. Bishop Taylor has reported during the past year the conversion of King Hodge, the big ruler of the Grebos, and about forty of his people. These have built a Methodist church on their own account. Women being of commercial value are generally saved from the speedier torture of cannibalism to eke out their wretched lives as polygamous wives, doing the hardest work, while the men spend their time eating, drinking and sleeping. Garenganze is the only powerful native kingdom, and is believed to be the most promising region of inner Africa. It is described as a country of grain fields, where the men, strange to say, till the soil, and there is a slight measure of satisfaction in reading that in this "most promising" country the men dare not face their wives unless they carry home after their day's toil a bundle of wood to feed the fire. There are hindrances to the Gospel in Africa peculiar to the country. The African has no end to live for—his wants are few, food is provided with little labor, the bark of a tree answers the demand for a wardrobe, and his religious aspiration, if he has any, is limited to veneration of ancestors. To break up this monotony, to create an aim, to produce some object for ambition and labor is one aim of the missionary. Superstition is a mighty obstacle. Climate is also a drawback. The path to the interior is lined, it is said, by the graves of missionaries, explorers and traders. And yet Africa must be Christianized! How great the need of wisdom on the part of the Church to know the best methods of taking this country for

Christ. How great the need of prayer and faith and courageous effort. The Lord giveth the Word to-day to women, and with marvelous courage and success they are publishing the glad tidings of salvation. "Strengthen, O God, that which Thou hast wrought for us!"

Chat with the Editor.

ONE of the greatest movements of the day is that known as the Christian Endeavor. The past month has been marked by great conventions of this society in Cleveland and Montreal. Two principles demonstrated by this movement give it special promise of power for the future, perhaps for the present also. There seems to us to be, first, that denominational acquaintanceship which enables the followers of Christ to join hands in work for Him, irrespective of their differences; and, secondly, the concession to woman of equal place and privilege with her brother. We read of the thousands and thousands of these Christian Endeavorers all pledged to service in the King's army, and we cannot but expect to witness, in our social and political life, the triumph of the great principles of Christianity. Cannot this mighty force in these two Christian countries, by a concentration of their political power, redeem these lands from the curse of a licensed traffic in rum? Is there not vast leverage here to be used for the uplifting of these nations? How the forces of evil do concentrate! How the advocates of license, of Sunday desecration, of free vice of all sorts, band together to strive for the mastery in our Christian lands! What is our duty? There can be no compromise, without dishonor to our King. If Christian teaching, if God's commandments to men are to be reflected in our laws, and if God is to be honored by us as a Christian nation, fidelity to God is imperative in our political life. It is said very often that Christian ballots keep the liquor traffic in power. Can it be true? Every ballot is a gift, a trust, by which man acknowledges himself his brother's keeper, to a great extent, and every ballot should be consecrated to the highest, purest service. What is really needed is a clearer perception of the responsibility attaching to the use of this powerful weapon. Some one said, recently, he liked the church which did not interfere with his religion or his politics. We prefer to say, Marry your religion to your political principles (not partizanship), and in this obey the Scriptural teaching, "Whatsoever ye do, do *all* to the glory of God!" May the mighty army of Christian Endeavorers, and all followers of Jesus, stand with unbroken front and unswerving purpose for that "righteousness which exalteth a nation," and refuse to be party to those "sins which are a reproach to any people."

THE Baltimore *Methodist* reports "that all the women on the Cleveland Convention programme excelled, presenting the best papers read."

WE very much regret that no official letters from Japan or British Columbia have been received for this month. They have given universal satisfaction, so far as we have heard, and our readers will be sorry to