

San Jose, two at Alajuela and one with a native helper is among the Chiripio Indians. But few of these Indians have ever heard of Catholicism, and their hearts are easily touched by the story of the Cross. Work for them is a recent undertaking. Within the first month fourteen were brought to Christ, two chiefs being among the converts. When Rafael, the first convert was offered eight dollars a month to support his wife and daughter while he acted as interpreter, he said: "No," they would live on six dollars (he had been earning fourteen dollars on the railway); he wanted to do this service for the Lord. He says that he needs only food and clothing here, he wants his treasures laid up in glory.

The general condition of the people in this Republic is better than any other, but, as in all, superstition, intemperance and immorality prevail to a fearful extent. Nothing but the gospel of Christ can lift these people from this state of bondage.

At the close of the rainy season, which are more or less prevalent, my daughter (Mrs Gates) and I went over to Antigua. The journey and the scenes visited were full of interest. On our return home I was taken very ill, and it was then that we proved that these people, even though far removed from what we deem a life of virtue and piety, have kind hearts and willing hands in the hour of need. In the stillness of the night the physician said, "there is little hope," but he spoke not of the Hope beyond." However, I was only permitted a glimpse of the glories that await the redeemed, and to feel for a few moments the presence of loving arms which should bear me safely over—not "the cold, dark river" that some describe it, but a sea of glory overshadowed by a halo from the Saviour's presence. O, the joy, the peace, the bliss of that hour! But I was not yet to be allowed to cross to the Golden City. I must work and wait a little longer.

"The work and waiting will be very sweet,  
Even in an earthly home."

Mrs. M. W. Fitch, in *Woman's Work*.

Mrs. Fitch is the mother of Mrs. J. J. Baker and Mrs. Yorke.

## WOMEN WHO HAVE INTERESTED ME LATELY.

BY MISS LULA F. WHILDEN.

The deaf old Buddhist nun who came close to me, to hear how her soul could be saved, thought she had grown old in trying to teach others how they could attain happiness hereafter.

The tired mother whose forehead bore marks of prostration on the ground before the idol, but who came to know if Jesus could quiet the fretful peevish baby whom she held in her arms.

The girl wife, fourteen years old, who wanted to know, if she prayed to Jesus about it, whether he would make her boy-husband kinder, so that he would not hurl stools at her when angry.

The mother on whose cheek a tear glistened as she asked how she must pray to Jesus in order to induce him to answer her prayer that her two opium-smoking, gambling sons should be reclaimed, and the two younger ones be kept from these vices.

The old white-hard woman of seventy-five, who listened as I told her of Jesus, saying: "I am an old woman, but I never heard of Jesus. I never heard anything like it before."

The old woman who said, "I feel it is true. We ought to worship the God of heaven instead of the idols. My heart tells me you are right; but I cannot do it. I'd starve, for I make my living by praying to the idols for those who are in trouble."

The blind woman who seemed so eager to know of Christ and His Salvation, and to apprehend so clearly what was told her, as to prove an illustration of the Saviour's words, "I am come into this world that they which see not, might see."

The woman who asked earnestly, "Are you sure if I pray to Jesus just as you told me to pray, and trust Him just as you told me to trust Him, are you sure He will forgive my sins and save my soul?"—*The Miss. Jour.*

## ISSUES AND SIDE ISSUES.

"Do you consider missions a side issue in Christian Endeavor Societies?" is a question that came from Michigan not very long ago. Missions a side issue! I should think not. If there is any straight-out, all-around, ever-present Christian Endeavor issue, it is missions.

One of the old papal writers a hundred years ago predicted the downfall of Protestantism, because it was not a missionary religion; and if it had continued to be a non-missionary religion, if Carey and Judson and Mills and Livingstone and Morrison had not aroused the church to a sense of its duty and its privilege, I think the prediction of the old Catholic writer would have proved true. But, thank God, Protestantism developed a missionary spirit, and the missionary spirit, saved Protestantism.

The Christian Endeavor Society, more and more in every land, the world around, is developing a missionary spirit, and so long as any souls remain unevangelized missions cannot be a side issue or dead issue.

Moreover, the liveliest part of this live issue is the end of it that touches our pocket-books. There are organizations enough to send the gospel to all the heathen at home and abroad, and men and women enough to carry the good news, many of them our own Christian Endeavor brothers and sisters; but the great problem in every denomination and every missionary board is the problem of money, next, of course, to the essential presence of the Spirit of Christ, without whom men and money and organizations are all worthless.

I cannot tell you, dear fellow Endeavorers, how anxious I am that we as a society should contribute something to the solution of this great problem. I have been giving my days to this matter, and sitting up nights with this problem, and I really believe that it is one that we may very largely help to solve.

The two-cents-a-week plan is a beginning in this direction. The tithing of our property, whether it is ten cents or a million dollars, is a still longer step in this direction. Indeed, this step, if taken by Christian Endeavorers generally, would solve the whole problem.

But how can we bring this about? How can we do something more than talk, and write familiar letters, and stir up here and there a society to do its duty? How can we make this regular and systematic giving a constituent part of our Christian Endeavor work, as is our prayer meeting and our lookout committee? *The Golden Rule* will set itself to solve this problem. It will welcome suggestions from you as to the best plans for making systematic, proportionate giving a great issue in Christian Endeavor. This issue contains many other helps for missionary extension.