

The population of India forms one-sixth of the people in the world, and reckoning all the missionaries that there are at work, there are not more than two to every million of the inhabitants. How much then need we to pray for more laborers in the harvest field?

Forty young men from Dublin University have recently offered themselves for the missionary work. A number of Cambridge young men have also volunteered for service in the mission work abroad. Mr. C. T. Studd, the celebrated cricketer last year, fully consecrated himself and fortune of \$300,000 to the Lord, and went to China on the same common fare and conditions as the other missionaries of the China Inland Mission. Open doors are in every direction. If we cannot give ourselves we can our prayers and of our means. For unless we take distinct interest in the propagation of the faith and missionary labor, such Christianity cannot be living and real. A sign of true Gospel and spiritual life, both in churches and individuals, is to manifest a desire to extend itself elsewhere. Our young readers may enjoy reading the following abstracts.

One of the officers of the British force in Burmah concludes that stomach-ache is a widely prevalent malady in that region. At Kooniah he found an idol which effects miraculous cure when a sufferer plasters a flake of gold leaf upon the part corresponding to the seat of his own disorder, and the abdomen of this idol has been caused to protrude in a most extraordinary degree by the plastered offerings of health seekers.

Marriage among the Khyers. The marriage custom of the Khyens of Burmah is, it is believed, unique. The girls are given in marriage by brothers, not by their parents. When a girl is born she is especially assigned to one of her brothers, or, if she has none, to one of her father's sister's sons, whose consent has to be obtained by any one aspiring to her hand, and who, after her marriage, must be treated with the greatest respect by her husband. If the husband visits the brother, he must take with him a present of *khong*, a fermented drink; and should the brother visit the husband, he must take with him *khong* and pork, or, if his circumstances are such that he cannot do this, he must make profound apologies. As a rule, girls are affianced early to one of their cousins, but the match may be broken off. In such a case the defaulter, if the man, has to give the girl five pots of *khong*, a bullock, a pig three feet in girth, a spear, a fork, a bag, and a piece of ornamental cloth. If the girl breaks off the match she has to give the man a brass dish, a silk cloth and belt, and a silk turban.

Pick Out What You Like.

HINTS TO PARENTS.—If you do not look after your children, the devil will.

Coleridge the Philosopher, was once visited by Thelwall, a sceptic. Thelwall maintained that children should not be taught religion: it was interfering with their freedom, and filling their minds with prejudices; they should be allowed to grow up naturally, and then choose for themselves. The two sauntered into his garden. Coleridge loved his books more than his plants, and his garden was a mass of

weeds; but Thelwall was fond of gardening. "I wonder," said he, "Mr. Coleridge, that your garden is in such a state. Why don't you weed and plant flowers?" "Oh," replied Coleridge with a smile, "I want my garden to grow up naturally. I won't fill it with prejudices."

TO CHURCH MEMBERS.—Extend your hand to the strangers. Invite them to come again. Do not excuse yourself because you do not know them. Rather, that is a good and sufficient reason for speaking to him and giving a welcome.

TO MINISTERS.—A minister who had received a number of calls, and could scarcely decide which was the best, asked the advice of a faithful old colored man, who replied: "Master, go where is the most devil."

TO THE ENGAGED.—An old gentleman of 83 having taken to the altar a young damsel aged 15, the clergyman said to him, "The font is at the other end of the church." "What do I want with the font?" asked the old gentleman. "I beg your pardon, I thought you had brought his child to be baptized."

A Boston Congregation the other Sunday were waked right up out of a sound sleep by the preacher's saying, "That young man peeping in the door had better come in and find whether she is here or not. The people in the back end of the church won't be so troubled by the draught."

Absence of occupation is not rest; a mind quite vacant is a mind distressed.

Home Circle.

In the past month, as in months past, the good hand of our Father God has been manifested. We desire to set up our Ebenezer and realize it is not our duty to sit down thereon and sing Ebenezer until we fall asleep, but rather to make the past stepping stones for present and future successes, so that all along our pathway, records of mercy and grace-given may be set up to testify to the faithfulness of the Promiser, who said, "As thy days so shall thy strength be, My grace is sufficient for thee." Sometimes the hardness of the way of duty causes one to tire and faint as far the flesh is concerned. But at such times the new man in Christ Jesus gets a drink at the fountain of promise, and lifting the eye of faith gives new inspiration. Looking unto Jesus, who can consider Him, and grow weary of well-doing, even when wearied in the service? For, "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Knowing although the way may be rough, it cannot be long. We will cheer it with hope and smooth it with song. Truly the memories of the past month lead us to sing, "Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die."

In the month of February, as has been our custom for many years, it was agreed to hold some extra meetings. Four instead of two evenings were given up to prayer meetings, and the result of the past is shown in a large ingathering. From the first there was much to encourage and quicken our faith.

Thank God, through summer drought and winter's cold, in the work at the Tabernacle, the records of the past prove, God has never ceased to be gracious or allowed the ploughing and sowing to be in vain. There has been times of testing when the love of many has waxed cold, when times and conjoined circumstances were very trying, not only to flesh and blood, but to our faith. Nevertheless Jesus, precious Jesus, has appeared for our relief. Is it not like Jesus? A present help in every time of need. At such times what wonders He hath wrought w.l.a. goodness shown. It is "of Him and through Him, and to Him are all things, to Him be glory for ever." Just when the strain of the extra services was testing severely