

when our fathers held high festival during the *twelve days of Christmas*. We might add to the list the great lecture by Mr. White, of Montreal, but this one is not a subject for *THE DOMINION CHURCHMAN*, loyal son of the Church though the lecturer be.

Rev. S. W. Young had given a lecture at the request of the C. E. Y. M. A. some weeks previously on "The Men of Shakespeare," and at the request of many friends, he gave a lecture on the minor characters. It was a very able and learned lecture. In vindicating the drama of Shakespeare and the other great masters from aspersions cast upon it in connection with the dark shadows from which it was quite distinct, he painted the great English dramatist with the most exquisite skill and tenderly as the touch of one who loves that which he touches.

We hardly know what characteristic most claimed our admiration, the painting vice in all its horrors and false pretences when exposed, in their hideous realities, or the shrewd common sense and implanted principle of the peasant born on the darker scenes where the pangs of sorrow lead us to look with longing eyes to that Home where all sorrow shall be swallowed up in everlasting joy. But we must confess, to us the sweetest and dearest, of all the enchanting scenes he depicted, was that of loving and altogether lovely woman. For nearly two hours did the poet lecturer hold his audience spellbound, but at no time so thoroughly so as when depicting the charming innocence of Lucretia.

"Never," said the lecturer, "be ashamed to love Shakespeare, be bold to commune with that gentle spirit, to sit at the feet of the wise master who knew the world so well, its evil no less than its good, and yet, unsoured by the knowledge, saw good in everything. The stage is frowned on by the religious, and is indeed full of corruption and it may be a long time before a purified theatre takes its place as a school of morals; it may be never! But Shakespeare's pages are not polluted, his writings you may safely study, his children you may unhesitatingly love. My Bible and my Shakespeare were the only books I brought over the Atlantic, and with them the exile need never be lonely, with them the ignorant may become wise. The world, in five thousand years, has produced but one Shakespeare, in all probability she will never produce another; you can not then value him too highly. I am proud of being an Englishman, proud of our Queen, proud of our constitution, proud of being a citizen of the finest country on earth, proud of our noble language and our glorious literature, proud, not least of all, of being fellow countryman to Shakespeare."

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the rev. lecturer, and another to the Dean of Huron, who presided at the meeting.

ALGOMA.

A circular has been issued by the Rev. E. F. Wilson, Shingwauk Home, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, stating that tenders are invited for building a *New Home for Indian Girls*.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY NOTES.

SOUTH AFRICA.—The Rev. Dr. Thurston, of the Clydesdale mission, writes: "It is a great waste to have people out from England who want training. We have neither time nor opportunity for that. We want trained men. England has every appliance for teaching and training, and we must look to the old country for workmen, who have only to learn the language and how to apply their already acquired knowledge. I fear many people romance about mission work. It is a reality, and some find this to their cost when they enter upon it. I do hope our bishop's hands will be abundantly strengthened from home. He wants at least twelve clergy more at once, and how will he get them?"

TUTICARIN.—This part of India has been visited by an epidemic, called by the people "the water-drinking disease." It seemed from the accounts received to be a sort of low fever. The native minister says in his report: "I went to see a candidate for the communion, the head man of a

poor village near; who, with his wife, two sons, and a daughter-in-law, were all afflicted with this disease. It was sad to see them stretched almost unconscious on their mats, unable to seek any remedy except the earthen pot of water from which each was drinking in turn. The old man kept a firm faith in the Saviour through all his trials."—*Ibid.*

JAPAN.—Although the Japanese Government have done some things of late which enlightened friends of Japan regret, yet on the other hand they have done some things favourable to the propagation of Christianity. Native converts, who have been arrested by local officials, have been released by orders from the Council; and Christian missionaries have sought and obtained from the Central Government permission to reside at Kiato and other places, from which other foreigners, except those in Government employ, continue to be excluded; and recently the missionaries at Osaka received pressing invitations from some of the natives of Shikok to visit that island and preach the Gospel. This is the only one of the four large islands on which there are no missionaries residing and no ports open for the residence of foreigners. But when one of the missionaries lately applied for permission to go to the island to preach, it was not only granted but instructions were sent from Tokio to the officials to grant facilities for the services, and to notify the people of willingness on the part of the Government that they should attend the services. The missionary was surprised and delighted at the large attendance of all classes of the people. We are inclined to think, therefore, that if the Government of Japan is about to take more formal action than hitherto it will be in favour of, and not against, religious freedom.—*Spirit of Missions.*

INDIA.—Life and death of Anabi, a Tosnil Christian woman—Anabi was born of heathen parents and converted to Christianity after her marriage by Mr. Rhenins, a C. M. S. missionary. She became a widow about thirty years ago, when her three sons were still quite young, and wisely settled at Edeyengondy that they might be brought up under the care of Dr. and Mrs. Caldwell. Her humble demeanour, her simple faith, her kindness to the sick and needy, her love of peace and purity, her spirit of prayer, and liberality to those who came to her house, will long be remembered. She died as she had lived, unto the Lord. One of her sons, a native minister of the Tinnevely district, has sent home this account of her death: "Until my dear mother was entirely laid on a sick-bed she loved to be in the sanctuary of the Lord. She was bedridden for nearly eight months, her strength failing from day to day, and her pains being intense; but when asked concerning them she would say: 'True, I feel much pain, but my Saviour will help me to bear all pains.' She was always calm and resigned, begging her granddaughter to read the Scripture and religious books when she could bear them, asking her friends to pray with her, and receiving the communion with great devotion. On the morning of the 11th of March two messengers came to me, running, with a letter from my brother saying that our mother wished to 'take leave of me.' I went with them immediately and found she was almost suffocated. When my brother and I showed our grief she said: 'Don't be sorry; the Lord is with you. I am going to my Saviour.' When words of comfort were spoken to her she replied: 'I have no other hope except on Jesus, my Redeemer.' She lifted her eyes to heaven and seemed to be praying. One of the native pastors who was present prayed aloud, and she joined in a hearty 'Amen' and repeated the Lord's prayer with us. A few minutes after this her spirit departed to be with Christ."—*The Gospel Missionary.*

BASATOLAND.—NEW MISSION TO THE HEATHEN.—The Rev. John Widdicombe writes: "We have just returned from a most successful visit to northern Basatoland, where our bishop wishes us to establish a mission. We hope to take up our residence permanently in that country before the rainy season sets in. We have selected Massatucosy for our new station because of its central position and from the fact of its being surrounded

by a large heathen population and most convenient to reach the scattered Europeans in the northern part of the country. It is likely also to become the northern capital, as the chief magistrate of the district has resolved to fix his residence there. Our interview with Molappo, the great chief of the north, was very satisfactory. He is probably the wealthiest chief in the whole country, and has just built a large house of cut stone of good design at a cost of nearly £3,000 pounds sterling in which to entertain his European guests and visitors. His wives number nearly sixty, but he was baptized in his youth by French Protestant missionaries. The chief, sitting upon his throne of sun-dried clay, listened attentively while I told him, through an interpreter, the object of our visit. I spoke of the Church's love to the Basato as the reason of our advent amongst them. In reply the chief said:—"Your words are good, and I am glad to welcome the church into my country. I have often heard of the church of the Queen, and now I am rejoiced to find that teachers belonging to it have come here. Hitherto I have only seen two kinds of Christians in the country, the *Ma-frause*, (French Protestants) and the *Ma-roma* (the Romanists.) I have also heard of the *Ma-wesley*, (the Wesleyans) who have stations on the borders of my country. But I am now glad to see the representatives of *Ma-churche* (the ordinary name amongst the native tribes of the church) at my house. It is good to have these four kinds of Christians near. It is like a man having *four cows*; sometimes he can milk them all, and when some fail him he can always reckon on a supply of milk from the others. So *Ma-frause*, and *Ma-wesley*, and *Ma-churche*, and *Ma-romy*, all supply us each in their own way with good things out of the Word of God."—*The Mission Field.*

British News.

ENGLAND.

SCHOOL QUESTION.—The school question is receiving a large amount of attention in England, and strong efforts are being made, and successfully in many cases, we are sorry to see, to make the schools entirely secular.

MISS SELLON.—Bishop Staley, late of Honolulu, has written a letter to the *Guardian* acknowledging the services rendered by Miss Sellon in the mission work of the church in that diocese, in the assistance she rendered in the carrying on of industrial schools for girls.

COLOURED BISHOPS.—It is suggested that coloured coadjutor Bishops should be appointed for India. They would be of great assistance in the enormous dioceses; understanding the native mind and language, and being easily maintained.

BRECHIN.—The lately appointed Bishop of Brechin, makes an appeal to churchmen in England to assist him in carrying on the great work in Dundee which his predecessor the late lamented Bishop Forbes commenced, and advanced by his own personal resources, and which is now languishing for want of men and means.

CURATES' AUGMENTATION FUND.—The average stipend of a curate who has laboured fifteen years as such is only one hundred and ten pounds, and it is the praiseworthy object of this society to add fifty pounds a year to that amount. 352 curates have been aided during the year 1876, with a sum amounting to £14,480. The claims of the Society have a very limited advocacy, arising from the delicacy the clergy feel in making known their own pecuniary difficulties. These difficulties can only be made known by the clergy, and when made known seldom or ever fail to call forth a generous response. There is great significance in the fact, that though the population has increased from six to seven millions during the last twenty years, yet the ordinations fall considerably short of what they did twenty years ago.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—A Conference, at which all classes of the nation were represented, has just been held in order to support a Christian