

## Our Foreign Missions.

**The Funds.** One fact which needs no comment but which should lead to serious thought and earnest action, is, that from present indications, unless some special gifts are forthcoming, our Foreign Mission Funds will close their accounts on the first of May with a large balance against them; that of the East probably approaching eight thousand dollars, and that of the West perhaps over twenty thousand.

In the East the debt was incurred one and two years ago, in a special, and necessary, forward movement in Trinidad, which is richly repaying itself, while the income for the year will probably meet the current expenditure and leave the balance Dr much the same as at the beginning of the year.

The West began the year with a balance Dr of \$2008. The estimates for the year are \$10,612 more than the total receipts for last year, while the receipts, up to April 1st, are \$7,185 less than at the corresponding date of last year.

**Among the Mangs.** Mr. Wilkie's letters have been telling of a deep spreading movement among the Mangs, the lowest class in Indore. It is in some respects very wonderful, a quiet Pentecost, and yet, it is but a repetition of what took place in the Saviour's ministry, when the "common people heard him gladly" and of what was told of His coming long ages before, that to the poor the gospel is preached. Precious gospel, so often hidden, by their conceit, from the wise and prudent, and revealed unto babes; a balm for earth's wounds, a comfort for earth's sorrows, a supply for earth's wants. The leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations.

**Chinese Names and Measures.** The surname in China is put first instead of last as with us, e.g. the names of the two first converts in Honan, are, Chou Lao-chang and Chou Te-wen. The first is the surname, the two last are the personal name, should have only one capital letter, and may or may not be written with a hyphen. It is as if we were to say Smith John, Jones Thomas. There is in this a measure of sound philosophy. It gives precedence to that which has gone before, to the trunk of the tree, and treats the individual as merely an attachment to the family and the family name, the latest branch of the tree.

Their cities too are peculiar in their names, e.g. one place mentioned by our missionaries is Wei Hui fu. The first two words are the name of the city, the last word is the rank of the city, meaning that it is one of the "fu" cities, i.e. one of the first rank. The fu should be printed without a capital letter. The idiom is similar to the old English "London town."

As to distances, a "li" the Chinese standard

of measurement, as given in missionary journeys, is one-third of an English mile. The above is from Rev. John McDougall and will enable us the better to understand our missionary letters from Honan.

**Troubles in Honan.** A letter from Dr. Smith on another page tells of new difficulties in the way of their work there. In a private letter of a few days later date, 21th December, Dr. Smith writes.—"We have appealed to the mandarin and accused the ring-leaders, but six days have gone by and scarcely anything been done. So far from helping us the mandarin issued a warrant for the arrest of the landlord and the man who had a prior mortgage and who gave place to us. This is the Chinese way of doing things. The mandarin is anxious to side with the gentry and would like if we would give back the place. I fear it is going to be a tedious affair, and, however, settled, there is not likely to be peace and quietness for some time to come. Things look very dark at times, but God is overruling all and in the end we will see better His wise purposes.

Notwithstanding the various troubles, the attendance in the street chapel keeps up, and I have a fair average of patients. We have had a very busy year. We have the old man Chow with us now; it is grand to hear him in the street chapel. Still later, New Years day, the situation was unchanged. Later, 14th January, will likely lose the place and get their money back.

**A Semi-Jubilee.** The Presbytery of Trinidad consists of our own four missionaries, two ordained native pastors, and the pastors of five or six Presbyterian congregations in the Island in connection with the churches in Scotland. Rev. E. A. McCurdy, late of N.S., now minister of Greyfriars, the U. P. congregation of Port of Spain, writes, that the Presbytery are celebrating the semi-jubilee of the planting of our Canadian mission there, by a series of meetings, like Presbyterian visitations, to all the congregations and mission fields, during the current year. They began on the 31st March, at Tunapuna, meeting with Dr. Morton and his people. "The Presbytery will meet the Indian people and the Indian people the Presbytery, and both together the Master, in worship, instruction and the celebration of the Lord's Supper." At Dr. Morton's request, Rev. Lal Behari, now for many years Mr. Grant's much prized right-hand man, will preside on that occasion at the dispensation of the Sacrament to Presbytery and people. They hope for much good from the proposed meetings, in the way of promoting a sense of unity and a spirit of fellowship among congregations and people.

As we look back over those twenty-five years to the planting of that mission "What hath God wrought."