

of thought should stimulate to greater diligence in bringing to Japanese knowledge seekers in this country the foundation principles of the Gospel.

—Once more terrible earthquakes have shaken Japan, and this time the island of Yesso, the extreme northern part of the empire. The latest official report places the loss of life, principally from tidal waves following the earthquakes, at more than 30,000 !

—The evidence of the success of foreign missions in Japan is not to be found merely nor mainly in the addition of 20,000 converts in ten years, but far more powerfully in the unseen but all-pervading moral influence which they are exerting upon the people of Japan. If it is true that, through the faithful preaching and holy living of the missionaries and their converts, the Japanese are adopting the ethics of Jesus Christ, then the Japanese are very practically taking Christ for their Master. Since they do it under no sort of constraint, they must do it willingly ; and if they are "willing to do the will" of the Father, it will not be long before they shall "know of the doctrine," both of the Father and of the Son."—*Church Standard*.

#### AFRICA.

—A new Bishop of Africa ! Bishop Taylor for over fifty years has been an untiring itinerant evangelist in many lands, heroic in spirit and in achievement. Honored and beloved, and with the weight of seventy-five years upon him, the General Conference believed he had no longer the strength needed to attend to the work required of a Bishop for Africa. Dr. J. C. Hartzell was elected and consecrated as his successor. He has shown himself a wise, faithful, and successful leader as Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society. He will fulfil the expectations of those who elected him Bishop of Africa.

—M. Francis writes thus of the effort of the Missionary Alliance to reach the

interior of the Dark Continent. Our plan, in brief, is to plant a chain of stations running northeast from Tubabudugo, 780 miles along the upper Niger to Timbuctoo, and another chain due east 550 miles to the same longitude as Timbuctoo. This advance means invading French territory, on the border of which we already are. Permission for this must be obtained from the French Government. This also means 24 new stations and 100 new missionaries, each new station to erect, and run one year. Including outfit, passage money from New York, salaries, and all transportation will cost \$3063. Of course it will not be possible to make all this advance in one year. Step by step we will follow Him. Two main departments of work are included, itinerating and the training of native agents for future evangelization.

—That a cry for funeral reform, indited by a native pen, should reach us from the Gold Coast, is oddly in keeping with the agitation, so familiar to us at home, for the same object. "Brandy," complains a native in one of the English West African papers, "is present in excessive measure at every heathen funeral." Two barrels of rum is the average outlay at the burial festivities of a fairly prosperous man. Public opinion, a fear of the displeasure of the deceased and the fetishman, lend their support to a funeral custom, which our native writer (a heathen) earnestly desires to see branded by the official veto.

—For miles around Efulen the people have ceased to believe in witches, and three witch doctors have given up their calling gracefully and gone to work building bark houses. It was only in the summer of 1892 that Dr. Good, making his preliminary exploration, struck the first blow at witchcraft in Efulen.—*Woman's Work for Woman*.

—India has a large surplus population, some of which has found its way already into Africa. The labor of Natal is performed in great part by na-