

two principal mosques (there are many others), are the Karueen and Mauli Edrees II. Christians and Jews are not allowed to pass the streets while the mosque doors are open; these streets are sanctuaries of refuge for criminals and debtors. No one can touch them as long as they remain there. When any one of these refugees wishes to go to court or to the Sultan for justice, he takes down an ornamented text from the wall of a mosque (of which there are many), and carries it under his arm. The Karueen is the largest mosque in North Africa. Mauli Edrees is a centre for devotees and pilgrims, while the Karueen is a centre for students, who attend classes there, living in barracks surrounding and belonging to the mosque. A large number of students are fed daily by the government and also by private charity. The studies are chiefly religious. The business men among the Moors are really the educated people; and, as a rule, it is the influential merchants who become successively customs administrators, governors, ambassadors, or ministers of the court.

Geo. S. Miner Special Gift Day Schools.

Superintended by Harry R. Caldwell, A.M., Foochow, China.
(To the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger'.)

Dear Sir,—I wish to express to you and to the readers of your paper my hearty thanks for favors recently received through it and them. During the past few weeks I have received numerous letters and communications from friends in Canada and Newfoundland whose attention had been called to our work through some little article which had found its way into the columns of your paper. You cannot realize the real assistance you have thus rendered this department of our Lord's work among the poor children of China, but I do trust that you will in God's own good time gather many precious sheaves through the help thus rendered to this darkened portion of his vineyard.

At the present our schools number about one hundred and twenty-five, and are scattered over an area of some hundreds of miles. Into these schools are gathered from the heathen as well as the Christian home the little ones who together are learning of our Saviour. We rejoice to see the little children leading their aged parents into the kingdom of God. During the quarter just closed we have seen entire villages swept clean of their idols and almost every family bowing at the foot of the cross through the direct influence of a single school buried deep in the very heart of heathenism.

There certainly can be nothing of which this great nation is in deeper need than Christian education. This forms the very frame of our day-school work. The Government itself is seeing the great lack of the people along the line of education and is erecting numerous institutions of learning. One of the requirements for admission to these schools is the worship of the Confucian tablet which, of course, bars the way of our Christians entering these schools, so we must arrange some means by which we can give our native Christians greater advantages along the line of education. We are taking care of some thousands of the children in our day-

schools and could easily care for several times that number had we the means to take that advantage of even one-half the opportunities afforded us. In some way we must give our young men greater advantages for attaining an education. When it comes to a matter of \$12.00 standing between one of these bright young men and a full year's schooling in one of our higher institutions of learning we can but pray God for a few friends who will send us scholarships for a number of these young men who are knocking at the door for admission into our schools. We need a few scholarships, and possibly some reader of the 'Northern Messenger' would be glad to thus invest some of their Lord's money, if so, please send money to Dr. H. K. Carrol, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, or direct to me, in either case specified for scholarship in Boys' Boarding School.

Now allow me again to express to both the Editor and readers of the 'Messenger' my hearty thanks for the manner in which you have remembered our work, and in conclusion I would say that I would be glad to receive anything in the line of picture cards, Berean Leaf Clusters, or literature. I also have hundreds of old coins, many of which are 3,000 years old, which I would be glad to exchange for stamps cancelled or uncanceled from any country. Yours in the Master's service,
HARRY R. CALDWELL.

The Prayer-Meeting and the Pastor.

(Rev. Charles E. Jefferson, D.D., in 'The Christian Endeavor World'.)

The prayer-meeting is the one meeting of the church which is most completely in the hands of the minister, and with which custom or tradition ought to have the least to do. The plan of it should be so flexible that it can be adapted to the seasons, and be made to change with the changing moods of those who attend it. Many a minister has killed his prayer meeting by holding it through the year rigidly to one fixed type, allowing no variation or shadow of turning.

If the minister loves the meeting, he will sacrifice himself for it. He will make himself of no reputation, and be found in the fashion of a modest Christian. He will not monopolize all the time, nor convert himself into a selfish Gradgrind, treating the members of the church as so many pitchers to be filled. Some men have a fashion of opening a meeting by saying everything upon the topic which can possibly be said. They are experts in the art of opening their mouths, but they do not know how to open a meeting. The meeting closes up while they speak, and becomes as dumb as a clam. Instead of saying, as they do frequently say, 'Now the meeting is open,' they ought to say, 'The meeting is now shut.' If the leader of the meeting is going to give a lecture, let him give it, and close with the benediction. But, if he really wants to open the meeting, let him open it by keeping still.

But suppose that laymen are reluctant to speak. Then let the minister be patient. He must learn to labor and to wait. Training people to do things they do not know how to do is a part of the work to which a minister is called. He is a teacher and the teacher does not do for his pupils what

his pupils ought to do for themselves. He is a poor teacher who works out immediately every sum in arithmetic over which a pupil stumbles, or who reads every Latin sentence that causes the slightest perplexity. It is the business of a teacher to train his pupils to do things which are difficult, and which can be mastered only by long-continued application.

Speaking in prayer-meeting on religious themes or concerning the experiences of the spiritual life is not an easy thing for the average mortal to attempt, and the majority of professing Christians will never do it unless trained to do it by a minister who has tact and patience. To rail at people because they do not do it, to nag them with such exhortations as 'Do not waste the time!' 'The time is passing!' to scold because the meeting is dull and stupid—all this is proof, not of total depravity in the people, but of sheer incapacity in the leader. Men who are in the habit of consoling themselves by the thought that they have a stiff-necked and rebellious congregation, a peculiar people who cannot be induced to take interest in prayer meetings, ought to examine themselves and ask whether the root of the difficulty may not, after all, be in their own disposition and methods.

Post Office Crusade

Another request has come from India from a missionary for 'World Wide' to be mailed to a native principal of a college. Thanks to 'A Friend of Missions,' who sent \$1.00; 'A Friend at Seaforth' for \$1.00, and 'Good Cheer' for 25 cents, all the student list is paid up and some in hand for this new call. The kind letters with these gifts are indeed 'good cheer.' As it's more blessed to give than to receive, those good friends must have had a special blessing, for my heart warms over the letters and gifts.

'World Wide' for special reasons is of value in India for a particular class of readers not easily approached or influenced. A young girl in India would like to get the 'Girl's Companion' and Canadian stamps. Is there a little girl who wants her address? A boy of seven in India wants Canadian stamps.

For replies send stamped addressed envelopes.

Faithfully,

MARGARET EDWARDS COLE,
112 Irvine Avenue, Westmount, Que.

The Old Year and the New.

(Lucy Bennet.)

The Old Year taketh down her tent,
Beneath the midnight sky,
For many a stormy wind hath rent
The canvas stretched on high.
But lo, New Year, with silent tread
Her snow white canopy doth spread.
Meet shelter for the heaven-bound traveler's head!

Your Own Paper Free.

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