

NOTES.

One of the greatest obstacles to the success of the Gospel in China is the trade in opium. The Society of Friends in England have issued an appeal to their fellow-countrymen on the subject. They express their conviction that the British Government "have, for a long series of years, been pursuing a course of conduct wholly opposed to Christian morality in relation to the opium trade between India and China." They plead that they should no longer delay to "put a stop to the issuing of licenses to grow opium in our Indian territories," and that they should "cordially co-operate with the Chinese Government in putting down the trade in that noxious drug, thus seeking to make some speedy amends for the injustice of which our country has been so long guilty." Such a step would be an important advance in the direction of that righteousness that "exalteth a nation."

The progress of missionary effort in China and Japan is attracting more and more the attention and awakening the surprise of the churches in all countries. In Japan the first Protestant church is scarcely eight years old, and of the sixty-seven now organized few are more than four. Missionaries report that whole towns are persuaded to give up their idols, and the calls for more helpers to proclaim the truth as it is in Jesus are most urgent. Several foreign consuls in China write of the inevitable spread of Christianity among the teeming millions of that empire.

"The world," says a contemporary, "can scarcely be aware of the magnificent work being done by the missionaries among the South Sea islands. A few years ago these distant lands were supposed to be almost irrevocably in the hands of cannibal heathens, from which nothing but a miracle could rescue them. And now we are told that these islands are eagerly accepting Christian civilization, and that at the present time there are among them not less than three hundred and fifty thousand Christians of native blood. These are for the most part gathered into well-organized congregations, with their own pastors and teachers, and are in return preparing to send out to the more remote islands evangelistic workers from their own ranks."

At a recent term of the Quarter Sessions Court of Potter County, Pennsylvania, the district attorney informed the court that he had no indictments or bills to present to the Grand Jury. The sheriff also stated that he had no criminals in the prison. The directors of the poor reported that they had no one to keep at the County's charge or expense. Potter County has had no tavern license for ten years, and this is given as the reason for the lack of Court business.—*Lebanon Times*, Pa.

An American journal says that "amongst the last acts of President Hayes was an order issued through the War Department, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors at military posts and stations. This is an important measure of protection for the army on the frontier and for the Indians. President Garfield will not annul, we are persuaded, this beneficent regulation. But what is good for soldiers would be good for