

they are ready for any movement, provided it be a forward movement. Not until every knee bows in the name of Jesus, and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, will they cease from their efforts.

It should be remembered that the society is still in its infancy. This is still the day of small things. But there has been a steady growth from the first. Each year sees the forces in the field strengthened. The outlook was never so bright and so full of promise as it is now. If all the signs of the times are not deceptive, we are destined to become a great missionary people in the near future. May God hasten it in His time.—*Missionary Intelligencer*.

#### NOTES OF A MISSIONARY.

"This is the beginning of a new era for our people" is a remark I have frequently heard since my return, last June.

One feature of this new era is the return of missionaries sent over by ourselves. Distance broadens, and to have friends on the opposite side of the globe widens our sympathies.

As many persons do not fully understand our work in Japan, I would say that we are not weakest or youngest among the tribes of Israel. The success has been greater, and the per centage of loss smaller, than that of any other mission of which I have heard. Missionaries entered Japan in 1859; their first convert was in 1866; he was alone till 1871, when ten became Christians and were organized into the first Protestant church. There are now 150 churches with 18,000 members. Thirty-seven of these churches are self-sustaining, and the interest of Christianity is wider by far than the number of its followers.

Our mission to Japan was projected in 1873, but it did not sail. We left San Francisco Sept. 27, 1883, landed at Yokohama in three weeks, remained there seven months, and went north 400 miles, where we were 200 miles from any European or American. By this isolation we learned the language more rapidly, and gained more subjects for our King. We have enrolled more than sixty. We have lost two by exclusion on account of failure to attend meetings on Lord's day, morning; one was excluded for unchastity, and two united with the Catholics. The one has since returned.

A Baptist missionary told me last winter he had just excluded nine for gross immorality.

The first missionaries in Japan labored for thirteen years and counted eleven, while we, in less than four years, gained threescore. They prepared the way before us; God prepared Japan for the triumph of His Son.

Three things insure the speedy evangelization of Japan:

1st. The Japanese, for twenty-five years, have been adopting our civilization. They have reformed their military and civil institutions, and adopted most of our great inventions. The clumsy Chinese calendar has been discarded, the Christian era and the Lord's day are taught in the schools, and practised in all branches of the government. The government does not believe the religion from which these things come. They are indifferent to all religions, yet they prohibit the priests from violent attacks on the Christian religion.

2nd. Railroads increase the number of missionaries. That is, they enable them to visit a large number of stations in the same time. The Japanese are building all the railroads they can, but the work is slow, for the Japanese, like every other idolatrous nation, is poor.

3rd. There are only 108 cities in Japan, with upwards of 10,000 population. When a self-supporting church is planted in all the cities and large towns, the villages and country can be safely left to the native preachers.

The missionaries have long ago passed the point

where it was a question whether Japan would become Christian or not. The question now is, how long a time? Some say twenty years; more enthusiastic men say seven (if you are a contributor to Foreign Missions you can take your choice).

What is done for Japan ought to be done quickly. It is to be regretted that the Executive Committee has not the funds to send two men out with me next March.

Besides Bro. Garst and his wife, with their two bright children, there are two young ladies—Sister Harrison and Sister Johnson—related to former Presidents. Better than that, they are daughters of the King, whose they are and whom they so so loyally love.

G. T. S.

#### Miscellaneous.

##### LEAD ME ON.

Lead on, dear elder brother, lead!  
Though I am tremulous with fears,  
Though I am blinded with my tears,  
Thou knowest best my need.  
Thy matchless love alone can lure,  
Thou knowest all the wounds I feel;  
One pitying look of Thine can heal,  
Or strengthen to endure.

Thy feet have trod the thorny way,  
Thy brow hath pressed the thorny crown;  
For me Thy love and wounds pour down  
Courage nought shall dismay.  
Life's throbbing hour of pain is brief,  
And joy may never pour its wine,  
And though it break this heart of mine,  
Thou wast acquaint with grief.

Wounded among thy friends and slain,  
Borne down by every deep of woe—  
Lord, where Thou goest I will go,  
Nor shrink again at pain.  
Thy life hath purged the fires of hate,  
Thy love hath bridged the floods of wrong;  
I lift again my heart in song,  
And on Thy promise wait.

R. G. PLUMMER.

##### THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

London is the largest city in the world, containing a population of 4,764,312 persons.

The largest river in the world is the Amazon, being 4,000 miles long, 150 miles wide at its mouth, and navigable for large ships 2,200 miles from its mouth.

The largest diamond in the world is the Braganza, being a part of the Portuguese jewels. It weighs 1,880 carats. It was found in Brazil in 1741.

The Union arch of the Washington Aqueduct is the largest in the world, being 220 feet; 20 feet in excess of the Chester arch across the Dee in England, 68 feet longer than that of the London bridge, 92 feet longer than that at Neuilly on the Seine, and 100 feet longer than that of Waterloo bridge. The height of the Washington arch is 100 feet.

The largest free territorial government is the United States, being 3,580,242 square miles.

The largest island in the world is Australia. It is 2,500 miles in length from East to West, and 1,950 miles from North to South. Its area is 2,984,287 square miles.

The largest insurance company in the world is the Mutual Life of New York City, having cash assets of 103,000,000.

The large suspension bridge is the Brooklyn. The length of the main span 1,595 feet 6 inches. The entire length of the bridge is 5,989 feet.

The largest inland sea is the Caspian, between Europe and Asia, being 700 miles long and 270 miles wide.

The largest cavern in the world is the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky.

The largest tree in the world as yet discovered is in Tulare County, California. It is 275 feet high; and 106 feet in circumference at its base.

The largest ship in the world is the Great Eastern. She is 695 feet long, 83 feet broad and 60 feet deep;

being 22,927 tons. She was launched January 31, 1857.

The largest university is Oxford, in England. It consists of twenty-one colleges and five halls.

The largest circulation of paper money is that of the United States, being 700 millions, while Russia has 670 millions.

The largest desert is Sahara, in Northern Africa. Its length is 3,000 miles and breadth 900 miles; having an area of 2,000,000 square miles.

The largest volcano in the world is Etna. Its base is 90 miles in circumference; its cone is 11,000 feet high. Its first eruption occurred 474 B. C.

The largest body of fresh water on the globe is Lake Superior, 400 miles long, 100 miles wide. Its greatest depth is 290 fathoms. Its surface is 535 feet above the level of the sea.

The largest church in the world is St. Peter's in Rome. Its length is 613 feet. Its dome is 195 feet in diameter, and its height to the cross on the summit 448 feet.

The largest number of cattle ever received in one year was that of Chicago in the year 1884, being 1,874,984, beeves, 30,223 calves, 5,640,625 hogs, 749,917 sheep, and 15,625 horses. It required 9,000 trains of 31 cars each, which, if coupled together, would reach 2,146 miles.

The longest span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph in India over the river Ristuah. It is over 6,000 feet, and is stretched between two hills, 1,200 feet high.

The loftiest active volcano is Papocatepetl. It is 17,784 feet high, and has a crater three miles in circumference and 1,000 feet deep.

The most remarkable echo known is that in the Castle of Simonotta, two miles from Milan. It reports the echo of a pistol sixty times.

The highest monument in the world is the Washington monument, being 600 feet from its base.

The highest denomination of United States legal notes \$10,000. No bills of the value of \$100,000 have ever been issued in this country.

The aggregate of land in the United States owned by members of the House of Lords and British Syndicates is 20,941,666 acres, a greater area than that of all Ireland, 2,000,000 more than Scotland, and over half as much as in England and Wales.

The highest range of mountains are the Himalayas, the mean elevation being from 16,000 to 18,000 feet.

The longest tunnel in the world is St. Gothard, on the line of the railroad between Lucerno and Milan, being 9½ miles in length.

#### QUESTIONABLE WAYS OF REPLENISHING CHURCH COFFERS.

We have no wish to encourage, far less to take part in, any pot-and-kettle controversy over what church or churches may be the greatest offenders in the matter of questionable plans for raising the necessary funds to carry on church work. All we can say, all we need to say, is that to a greater or less extent all Christian denominations have been more or less compromised in this very poor and discreditable business, so undignified, and in some cases, we have no hesitation in saying, so immoral. Too frequently in this matter of raising funds not only has the world been brought into the church, but it has been the poorest and least reputable phase of secular life that has been introduced.

There is a right and a wrong way of doing everything, and surely churches ought to be supported and Christian work carried on in such a fashion as to leave no doubt about its being in the right way. The only persons who can, with any measure of propriety, be expected to support churches or to forward church work are those who believe in the importance and value of the influence thus exerted. To coax careless or ungodly people to contribute their quarters or dollars to religious objects by promising them fun, or by holding out the prospect of pecuniary gain, is an infamy and a degradation. Lotteries, lucky-bags, raffles, auctions, competitions for cakes, sticks, Bibles or smoking-caps are simply such as ought not to be once named among people professing to be Christians. We do not care who may resort to such plans for supplementing the church exchequer, or how they may seek to defend them. All such devices are of the earth, earthy, and are calculated to bring religion itself into contempt when they are resorted to in its name. If a church can only be built and "run" by such devices, then, in heaven's name, let it neither be built nor "run." A hundred times better not. No good can possibly be effected by such means, and injury, often of a very grave and permanent character, is all but sure to be inflicted.—*Christian at Work*.