

our purpose—to give expressions to another's will—to be the instrument to convey another's message? And that Other the SON OF GOD! Are we His voice to men, or are we drowning that voice by our own harsh ones? Have we grasped, in any true sense, that, He can only increase as we decrease; that every day there must be less of what "I think or do" and more of Christ? Or is our so-called higher life only a higher form of selfishness, a nobler attempt at self-seeking and self-aggrandizement than those of our neighbors in the money market or social arena whom we severely censure?

"What sayest thou of thyself?" Is there any "wilderness" in your life, that you have chosen for the sake of the message you bear?

Is there any decrease at all of self? Any sacrifice made that you can possibly avoid? Are you in any sense preparing His way, making straight His path, or are you simply laying a road way for yourself, over which you may walk with perfect safety, and amid approbation and applause?

Does the success of your own ideas and pet plans fill your mind this Advent? Or are you seeking in all things to know His will for yourself and others, and to live to voice that will, cost what it may?

"What sayest thou of thyself?" Dear friends, we all stand more or less condemned before such a heart-searching, but let each remember this, He must increase before I can decrease; Christ must fill my life before self will ever entirely yield the throne; I must open my heart to Him day by day, just as I am, and let him drive the usurper out.

As we look forward in a few short weeks to kneeling at His manger-bed, so let us now search our hearts till we see them as they are, and then welcome the Christmas message of hope, and claim the Infant Christ in His omnipotent power for our life, and all its needs. And may God grant when another Advent message rings in our ears, "What sayest thou of thyself?" we may be able to answer: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord," for He has increased and I have decreased."

"Lord ere our trembling lamps sink down and die
Touch us with chastening hand and make us feel Thee
nigh."
—*The Churchman.*

THE S.P.G. proposes to hold a Missionary Exhibition in London during the second week in May, 1898, illustrative of the Society's work in many lands.

THE "S.P.G. Picture Book" for children would be a good Sunday and day school prize. Amongst other improvements in it it now contains two maps showing every diocese of the Church of England abroad, and is sold at 2s. 6d. sterling.

CHURCH MISSION, FOOCHOW, SOUTH CHINA.

LETTER FROM MISS E. M. LESLIE, C.M.S.

I have been here just a month and already have so much to tell. It has been so very interesting, meeting again many of my Chinese friends, to say nothing of the missionary sisters. There was so much uncertainty about the steamers from Shanghai, on account of the celebration of the Chinese New Year, (Feb. 2nd), which always upsets all regular traffic, that it was not possible for me to let anyone here know when I was coming. Miss Lee, and others who had been watching and trying to find out when steamers were expected, were quite surprised when I appeared the day after they had met one steamer and a week before they thought it possible that another could come. It was rather fun coming back suddenly like this. The first person who came across me was Miss Newton, the one of the American missionaries I know best. Fortunately, the man who supplies our school with wood was on the bund and shouldered my luggage with a grin of welcome. I don't feel quite sure that he was really glad to see me, for very likely Miss Lee drives less hard bargains than I used to do. She was out, but the servants did all they could to make up for her absence. Our dear woman servant, Cong Cis, of whom you have often heard, ran to light the fire and bring me some tea, and the cook came with the lamp, and from her house next door, in came Mrs. Ahok, who seemed so pleased to see me, and we had a good talk in the room Miss Lee had made pretty for me—new matting on the floor and flowers all about—till she appeared. I was very glad to find that she had quite recovered from her illness and was looking well. We had, of course, a great deal to say to each other. It was so interesting to hear of all that has been happening here during the seventeen months I have been away. The school has increased greatly. Another of the girls, "Golden Water," has been baptized. Several have had to leave to be married, unfortunately. There have been some very useful additions to the school buildings.

I would like to tell about some of the girls in that group of ten in the photo which so many have seen, and in whom the St. Silas Working Party and the Matfield Mother's Meeting are interested. I have seen six of them.

No. 1, Cis Try.—This is the girl who was just going to be married when I left Foochow, and who gave me my little "engagement ring." She has had a great deal of trouble; her husband, who was so willing at first to listen to the Christians and made all sorts of