

WORLD WIDE MISSION NOTES

Conversions of Indian Orphans.—The *Browns Orphanage* (Presbyterian) at *Maday, North India*, had a bright Sabbath not long ago when 63 of the orphans made open profession of faith in Christ.

Growth in Japan.—The increase of Christians during the year 1904 is about 10 per cent. In round numbers the Christians of Japan—Protestant, Roman Catholic and Greek—number about 154,000 Church members, with a community of about 450,000.

The Mahuting Balita.—The Presbyterian Mission (N.) in the *Laguna de Bay* province, *Luzon, P. I.*, is to have a gasoline launch for coast and river work. The launch has been built in *Indiana* and is called the "Mahuting Balita," which means *Good News*, though it does not sound like anything very good.

Bibliography of Missions.—The Southern Presbyterian Com. of Publication, *Richmond, Va.*, has rendered a signal service to students of Missions by publishing a thick little "List of Missionary Publications." The list has a unique feature in giving besides book titles a classified catalogue of the leaflet literature of a score of different Missionary Boards.

The Paris Missionary Society was burdened with a deficit of \$30,000 at the end of its fiscal year in March. At the end of June all but \$5,200 of this had been paid by special gifts. Still the Society is making the reduction in its work which it promised to do if the deficit occurred. It will reduce its appropriations by about \$20,000, allowing half of the reduction to fall on Madagascar and the Basuto Mission.

The Gospel Ship in Japan.—We all know that Japan is composed of islands. The islands are many; but there is only one Gospel Ship. This is the "Fukui Maru," Capt. Bickell, connected with the mission of the ABMU. Thanks to generous friends, the "Fukui Maru" is no longer the Gospel Ship, which had a habit of unbecoming drifting. She has received an engine that ensures her going ahead regardless of tides and calms.

The Bible as an Evangelist.—Rev. J. P. Horsley (WMS) says that more than 200 of the native agents of that Society in the *Fiji Islands* owe the awakening of a sense of sin as well as the peace of Jesus Christ solely to reading the New Testament. Scripture alone, without counsel, admonition or spiritual instruction from any one, does the work of conviction and conversion in many mission fields. When missionaries are lacking either at home or abroad, the Bible should be sent out the more abundantly.

A Great Man Taken from Us.—The Presbyterian West Persia Mission has suffered a heavy loss in the death, August 18th, of Dr. Joseph P. Cochran, a great man and a physician of rare ability, beloved of all classes of the Persian people, whose life was full of good works. A powerful Kurdish Chief, who controlled nearly a million of wild tribesmen, once said of Dr. Cochran to the writer of this paragraph: "Our religious books teach us to call that man an infidel and a blasphemer. But I say that in the eyes of God that kind of an infidel is better than most Mohammedans!" The power of a Christian physician who is devoted to Jesus Christ, to win the affectionate regard of hostile bigots, is seldom more vividly illustrated than in Dr. Cochran's life.

NOTES OF Y. P. SOCIETIES

Sabbath, Nov. 5th—an historic date—has been set apart as Young People's Day. Never before has such a day been observed, but it is hoped that the occasion may be fittingly observed this year. May I be permitted to briefly sum up what the committee expects?

First, that all our ministers will make special reference to Young People's Societies and their work.

Second, that as a result of such preaching several new societies will be formed. Third, that the young people who belong to societies will be helped and encouraged as their work is sympathetically reviewed; they will feel that they have not labored in vain.

Fourth, that the ministers themselves, studying the subject of young people's work with a view to preaching upon it will realize more clearly than ever the possibilities of it, and will so direct their young people that greater things may be attempted.

Fifth, that some who through ignorance or prejudice have stood aloof from Y. P. Societies, may be induced to join them because of the new light they will receive on that occasion, or at least that they will regard the work of societies more sympathetically than before.

Sixth, that the young people will establish a fund which will enable the committee to carry forward its present undertakings and to engage in other work which from lack of means has been neglected hitherto. The committee has no fund of its own, and now relies upon the generosity of the young people to furnish the means necessary to meet its obligations.

A goodly number of ministers have already signified their intention of devoting one service to this subject, and the congregation will use the exercise prepared by the committee as the service for the occasion.

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Put this too in your scrapbook of many things that you want to teach your boy: When *Elihu Root* consented to give up his great law practice and re-enter the President's cabinet, an enthusiastic friend—probably with no small touch of pride in his own worldly acuteness—telegraphed the new secretary of state: "Why didn't you wait three years and have the substance rather than take the shadow now?" And Mr. Root wrote back with no attention to what was meant to be the flattering suggestion or his own eligibility to the President's chair, but saying simply this sturdy and withal most triumphantly sensible thing: "My feeling is that the things which one has an opportunity to do are substance, and the things one tries to get are the shadow."

Mr. A. McGill, acting analyst of the Department of Inland Revenue, has completed a test of numerous samples of jams, marmalades and jellies, and presents a report which shows that out of 98 samples examined only 33 were found to be genuine. It was discovered that 65 samples contained glucose, 29 contained dyes, and 15 contained preservatives. The Department is actively pushing investigations in many directions, and the result is there will be purer food for a long-suffering public.

Some of our contemporaries are printing a paragraph stating that there will not be another year with fifty-three Sundays in it for upwards of a century, and moralising on the use to which this extra Sunday should be put. As we figure it, remarks the *Orilla Packet*, the same thing will happen in 1911, and will continue to happen every five or six years till the end of time, or until the calendar is changed.

WORKINGMEN, WATCH.

The late *Horace Greeley*, founder of the *New York Tribune*, once visited Switzerland, and this is what he said of the Continental Sunday as he witnessed its workings in Geneva: "I could wish you might stand an hour with me on Sunday morning in the labor market in Geneva, and see the troops of dull, tired, saddened looking laborers, in ragged blouses, unwashed from the seven days, trudging off sluggishly and wearily, like dumb, driven cattle, to the work of the next week of seven days. 'Are these slaves?' you ask. Slaves! Bless you, no. These are freed men. These are voters and citizens in a land of universal suffrage, under the freest government on earth, with an advanced and liberal constitution of the latest French invention, and with the modern improvements. No blue laws here. They once had blue laws in Geneva, but they have laughed them down long ago. This, which you see, is liberty—complete, untrammelled, personal liberty. Every one of these free citizens has a right, a proud, irrevocable right, to work on Sunday, if he chooses, and that is what it ends in for him, and that is what it will end in for you if you choose to make the costly experiment. The workman who may work on Sunday, has got to work on Sunday when work is wanted. The right to rest for each depends upon the law of rest for all. Think of it, think of it twice, think of it again, then say if you will barter away your birthright, the American Sabbath, the universal privilege of rich and poor, for this miserable French delusion, this Continental holiday, through which half of the people have to toil that the other half may frolic." Unfortunately the "Continental Sunday" has become a saddening factor in the life of the United States, and it is becoming very much in evidence in this Canada of ours, and unless the Christian men and women, the workmen of these two countries stand firmly together in resisting its onward march, we shall soon have in our large cities ocular demonstration of the scenes which *Horace Greeley* witnessed in Geneva. Workingmen, don't let the votaries of mammon and pleasure deprive you of your day of rest!

Under the caption of "The Conversion of Children," the *Herald and Presbyter* says: "Childhood is the best age for conversion. No time in all the earthly experience is so opportune for this gracious beginning of the new life as the period occurs so early that it cannot be remembered. Those who are led to love and accept Christ in these early days gain the crowning experience of earth at the time when it will do them the most good and make them the greatest blessing to others." We commend this thought to those who shrink from admitting young children—say from twelve to sixteen years, to membership in the church, thus implying a doubt of the reality and sincerity of their conversion. The writer has more than once heard experienced ministers say that they never had cause to regret having admitted young children to membership in the church on profession of faith. We have in mind the case of some children who professed conversion during a time of revival, being deterred by their parents from becoming church members, because of their youth. The result in most of such cases has been very regrettable. These young children by degrees lost their desire to become pledged followers of the Lord Jesus and no one knows whether that desire will ever return. It is a sad thing for parents to say or do anything to check the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of their children, by persuading them to put off publicly confessing Christ until they are older. The blessed Master Himself said: "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."