

tor in Asiatic history. Many years ago there was a coaling station at Singapore for the convenience of British ships. On came the Chinamen, and in a little while they made this desolate port one of the great marts of the world. Penang, too, is another English colony, with English officials and English banks and English steamship lines; yet the business is mainly done by Chinamen. There is not a large money transaction in any of the banks of Singapore or Penang in which Chinamen do not have a hand. In Burma, too, the diffusive Chinaman has made his appearance. In Rangoon he is already a power. He is getting business into his hands. He is the contractor; he is the merchant; he is the drive wheel of the whole business train. When those railroads are completed to China from Siam and from Burma, the Chinamen will come down in swarms. In business matters they bid fair to possess the kingdom. Let the significance and suggestiveness of these things be noted. Chinese character is hard and granitic; it imprints itself with enduring fixedness on the peoples around her, so far as they are capable of being affected. China is to be a factor not only in Asiatic history, but in the world's history.—*Rev. W. Ashmore.*

—In New Zealand, as in California, the Chinaman abounds, and there, too, he has to resort to strategy to make good his position. In Otago, where Scotchmen are in the majority, a contract for mending a road was to be let, and the most acceptable bid was signed "McPherson." Notice was sent to the said McPherson to complete the contract, and lo! he appeared in all the glory of yellow hue and pigtail. "But," gasped the president of the board, "your name can't be McPherson." "All lightee," cheerfully answered John Chinaman; "nobody catchee contact in Otago unless he named Mac." The contract was signed, and the Mongolian McPherson did his work as well as if he had hailed from Glasgow.

—The Rev. J. F. Peat writes from Chung-king: "You will probably be interested in a brief account of our Sunday-school out here in the west of China. All the officers are natives except the superintendent. There are 12 regular classes, and we sometimes form another to accommodate a surplus of visitors. Our average attendance is about 150, and our regular collections amount to about 400 cash (100 cash is equal to about five and a half cents). This buys our lesson leaves, and a little remains, with which we hope to start a Sunday-school library. Many good books are translated into Chinese, and we hope to place some of these within reach of our Sunday-school scholars.

—The Rev. E. C. Smyth, medical missionary from Chou-ping, North China, said at the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society, in London: "Among our members is a woman who was formerly very bad. She had a son, a Christian, with whom she lived alone. She was blind and somewhat infirm, but when she got her temper up able and strong enough for anything. The son often prayed to God that He would convert his mother. One night he removed from the room the idol gods, that she might not worship them. She found it out, picked up an ax and banged him on the head with it, making a nasty wound. What was he to do? We told him he must forgive her, and still pray for her; and so things went on, until one day she gave her heart to Christ. She came to us, and after eighteen months' probation she was received, and at that time, altho seventy years of age, she was able to repeat twenty hymns and nearly the whole of the Gospel of St. John. She had never been out of her own village, and had very small feet, yet she traveled fifteen miles to the place of baptism."

AFRICA.

—The English Baptists have planted a station within 10 miles of Stanley Falls, on the Upper Congo. This is