

TRIFLING WITH A GREAT TRUST.

The *Missionary Review* speaks as follows concerning the Resources and Expenditures in the United States, compared with gifts to Christian Missions.

Aggregated deposit in Banks	\$3,000,000,000
Yearly Agricultural products	\$2,000,000,000
“ profit on Coal, Iron, and Manufactures	\$500,000,000
“ product in Gold and Silver Mines	\$400,000,000
“ Railroad net earnings	\$-50,000,000

The wealth of the country more than keeps pace with the advance in population. It has quadrupled since 1850, and multiplied sixteenfold within the memory of persons now living. Scribner's Statistical Atlas of 1880 says the wealth of the U. S. is accumulating at the rate of \$6,800,000 a day. Senator Hoar of Massachusetts says, “Every twenty years there is added to the valuation of this country wealth enough to buy the whole German Empire with its buildings, its ships and its invested property.” According to Dr. Dorchester, one-fifth of the population is made up of evangelical Christians. Thus, one-fifth of all this enormous wealth supposed belongs to the Evangelical Church.

We spend every year in dress goods \$125,000,000. In kid gloves \$25,000,000. In ostrich feathers \$5,000,000. For tobacco \$600,000,000, and Christian men and some ministers spend their share. For liquor \$900,000,000. Think of it! \$1,500,000,000, as a systematic voluntary offering, every year, for liquor and tobacco alone, to say nothing of the theatre and opera and other enormous exactions of worldly conformity, less injurious indeed to the body, but equally fatal to the soul! and all that can be spared from these fabulous resources and this tremendous waste, and that too under the great pressure of imperative necessities and the most splendid opportunities, for the entire work of Home and Foreign Missions combined is the comparatively paltry sum of five and one-half millions of dollars. May not our Divine Master say to his professed followers in Christian America, “why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” Let us examine ourselves and see if the stirring words of the prophet do not apply to us also, “Will a man rob God? Yet he have rob-

bed me; even this whole nation.” Mal. iii: 8.

There are hundreds of thousands of precious souls in our large cities and other parts of the land without the gospel and ignorant of its saving power; and hundreds of millions abroad in the blackness of heathenism who have yet to hear for the first time the “Glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.”

In the Presbyterian Church in Canada our trust is not so great, but is there not much of trifling in this regard. When we think of the comparative trifles given to missions compared with what is spent in useless and even harmful luxuries, we have need to lay the truth of the above article to heart.

THE CALL FROM JAPAN.

Within the last few months a remarkable interest in Christian education has been developed, wholly without precedent in missionary history. The progress in education generally, the establishment (by the government) of colleges and schools of every grade at the great centres, and more recently the urgent demand for instruction in the English language as a means of readiest access to the varied resources of English culture and civilization, do not satisfy the more thoughtful Japanese. The character formed in mission schools, under the influence of Christian teachers, is now seen to be of a higher type; the young men and women who come out of these institutions are living witnesses to the power of the gospel as an educational force far beyond the possibilities of a merely secular education.

The result is a call from many points for Christian teachers; and a readiness on the part of the Japanese themselves to erect the necessary buildings and to assume all the incidental expenses, if only Christian teachers can be secured. It is not secular education that is wanted, as that can be had of equal quality and at far less expense in government institutions. It is an education that elevates and purifies character that is wanted: an education pervaded and controlled by Christian ideas. Men of high station and influence in their several communities, not known as Christians nor specially interested personally in the gospel, are yet moving to secure such a Christian education for their sons and daughters. It is thus largely through