

Morrison, for instance, labored for seven years in China, and Marsden for ten years in New Zealand, and the first missionaries in Sierra Leone for twelve years, before a single convert had been gained. We are apt to forget that when God has great purposes for His Church to fulfil, He commonly begins by trying the faith and patience of His instruments. The harvest is sure, but much of it can only be gathered in by the toil and seeming waste of human life. Yes, the harvest is sure! Witness the marvellous successes which have been achieved during the last two decades upon the African continent, where Mackenzie, and Bowen, and Vidal, and Steere, and Hannington laid down their lives. More than three hundred churches have been erected in the district of Uganda, while, in these churches are to be found no fewer than twenty-five thousand worshippers. The Cathedral at Mengo is large enough to accommodate four thousand persons, and congregations of a thousand meet in it for a week day service. Here also are to be found seven hundred native teachers, supported entirely by the native Church. At Bonny, on the banks of the Niger, another great Cathedral has been built, and in it congregations of one and two thousand persons assemble. In that deadly region where, for Christ's name's sake, fifty-three Missionaries, or Missionaries' wives, laid down their lives in the first twenty-three years of the Church's operations, there are now eighty-six Clergymen. Sixty-two of these—among them two Bishops—are native Africans, and they minister to some twenty-five thousand Christians.

Compared with the vast populations of India, two million three hundred thousand Christians may seem a very small army; but is it little that Christianity has increased four times as fast as the Hindu and Mohammedan populations generally? or that the whole country is now covered with a net-work of Missions? or that the native clergy now greatly exceed in number the European? or that the spirit of Christianity influences profoundly even those who reject its teaching, and is gradually dominating all ranks and classes of men? Surely all these things are but harbingers of the day when these vast nations shall behold the penetrating rays of a noon-day Gospel shining upon them with a light from which there can be no hiding. In the huge Empire of China there were, fifty years ago, but six Christians, unless there were unknown survivors of the early Jesuit Missions; to-day the Anglican Church alone has over five thousand Chinese communicants, while the various Protestant communions claim forty-five thousand adherents more. In 1871 there were but ten known Japanese Christians; to-day there are forty thousand, while five Bishops of our communion

and six hundred missionaries of all names are laboring in these Islands. In the various Mission fields of the Church there are now five hundred ordained native clergymen, and each year ten thousand adults receive the sacrament of Baptism.

The missionary force of the world, it is estimated, amounts to 70,000 persons, including those from Christian lands and their native associates. The missionary contributions of Christians, so far as they can be ascertained, now average \$15,000,000 annually, and there are over 1,000,000 native communicants. We bless God for the steady advancement which the Church has been making during the last half century, and heartily we thank Him for these regenerated ones! But when we remember that there is still no more than one laborer (including both sexes and all grades) to every 14,000 of those yet waiting to be evangelized, we feel that we are not called upon so much to congratulate ourselves upon what has been already done, as to be concerned about what yet remains undone.

Let it be continually borne in upon our memories and our hearts that a thousand million souls exist upon whom the Day Star has not yet arisen. Shall it ever arise for them? Yes, verily! for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it! Not, however, until the whole Church has awakened to a full realization of her position and mission; not until every member is aflame with fervid desire to diffuse the light which has been enkindled in his own soul. How far below such an ideal do we, as a Church and individual souls, stand in God's sight to-day! In truth we have all need, says the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be "roused to the very bottom of our hearts—to be stirred to the inmost depths of our souls concerning that about which we ordinarily think so little." It is God's rule not only to bless man by man, but also to bestow the measures of His blessing in proportion to the earnestness with which we ourselves work in response to the impulses of His grace. When, therefore, the time shall have come that every single soul that has begun to love the Lord takes his full part in doing what the Lord has given him to do; then indeed will the windows of Heaven be opened and the blessing will descend as of a second Pentecost; converted souls will come flying as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows; a nation shall be born at once, and the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

What are we of the Canadian Church doing to aid in bringing about this glorious consummation? The operations of our Board in the Foreign field are mainly carried on in Central Japan, where we are working from two chief