

mistake! Saul could have been converted without the aid of the layman, Ananias of Damascus, but he was not. Cornelius could have been led into the light without the aid of Peter, but he was not. Angels are not chosen to do this work. God uses weak human agency, and when the divine call came to William Carey and he obeyed, the result was that there has been more successful work done for the Master during the last 100 years than for nearly 1,800 years prior to that date. Oh! how slow the world has been to recognize the fact that to Christianity we owe every blessing of modern civilization. It would seem as though 1,800 years had been required to prove to the enlightened portions of the world that this Gospel of Christ had in it the only true principles or elements of prosperity, greatness and happiness, and now when this fact is fully recognized, and the other fact—that these blessings can only be extended by those in possession of them—is partially recognized, we notice one reason at least for the increased growth of modern missions. In the year 1792, the first British Foreign Missionary Society was organized, and in 1812, the American Missionary Board was also established, followed by the organization of many such Boards. Among the early workers may be mentioned William Carey, already referred to, in India; Dr. Vanderkemp, in China; Judson, in Burmah; Moffatt, Mills, Livingstone and many others, in South Africa; and in 1859 the first missionary visited Japan. Then there are our own Methodist missionaries to China, Japan, and the British North-West, so that the Gospel is being carried to thousands of our fellow beings who never before heard of it. But oh! how slow is the progress in this enlightened and energetic age of railroads and steamships, postal unions, telegraphs, telephones, printing presses, and a world open for the truth, with an army of about 40,000,000 of evangelical church members, yet after 1,900 years to have in round numbers 1,000,000,000 of the earth's population in total Gospel darkness, and millions of these in absolute heathenism in every respect, is not, to say the least of it, very flattering to the Christian world. Still we are glad when we think of the deep, strong and irresistible hold Christ's claims have upon so many thousands of devoted Christian men and women all over our land, who are willing to make cheerful sacrifices in order to advance His work. This is shown in the great number of Missionary Societies in existence, and of recent years the establishment of those very successful organizations, The Woman's Missionary Societies, the Medical Missionary Societies of our cities, the College and University Societies, and a host of others. Then it may very reasonably be asked, how is it that there are yet 1,000,000,000 people who are without the light? and that there is only one Christian worker in India for every 275,000 of her population; in Africa, one for every 450,000; one in China for every 650,000, and some races without any at all; and that the entire evangelical Christian world only raised last year for foreign missionary work \$10,000,000, or one cent per year on each of the heathen? Says one writer:—'On the clearest of Canadian nights when the heavens are bedecked with glittering diamonds, look for one hour at all the gems visible to the naked eye, and while you look think that during that time nearly twice the number in the proud land of the Celestials alone will sink into Christless graves forever beyond our reach.' Carry the same thought if you will to other lands where the same thing is true, and besides this, let us remember that during all the ages that have passed since Christ came to fulfil prophecy, many times the population of our entire globe have passed away without a Bible, and without the slightest knowledge of the great gift of God's love. Then you may ask again why this slow progress? Why? Because the Christian Church has not done her duty. The Christian Church does not do her duty. When the sigh ascends to heaven, Lord, the thou-

sand million souls of the unchristian world have 'no bread'—no spiritual bread, what is the answer? Just the same as in the wilderness, 'Give ye them to eat.' The Lord does not send angels to carry the Gospel to the nations, nor does He send down Bibles from heaven in all the saving tongues of earth. The disciples were to feed the multitude and we are to do the same thing, feed the starving throng who are calling for bread. Dr. Pierson, who is now successor to the late Rev. Spurgeon, says:—'The Church should robe herself in sackcloth and ashes in remembrance of the fact that in the 19th century it takes nearly 6,000 Protestant Church members to supply one missionary.'

(Concluded in the January number.)

Along the Line.

WEST CHINA.

Letter from O. L. KILBORN, dated Sept. 1st, 1892, YANG TSZ-LING, TZ-CHUEN, CHINA.

YANG TSZ-LING is not a city or town, not even a hamlet; it is a large Taoist temple situated in the mountains fifty-five miles north-west of Chentu, and fully 3,000 feet higher. We are living at the highest point on the great road running north from Chentu to Sung-Pan, a distance of about 400 miles. This road or wide foot-path is most interesting. Over it passes a continuous stream of burden-bearers, strong-limbed men, each carrying on his back from 60 to 100 pounds' weight. They come from various points in the mountains, north and west, the great majority, however, from Sung-Pan (twelve days' journey), and sell their goods at Kwan Shien, a large city fifteen miles south of Yang Tsz-Ling, on the road to Chentu. They bring down medicinal herbs and roots in great quantity, also sheep and goat skins, and wool. They take back a greater variety, including cord-sandals, salt, corn, rice and tea. Occasionally we see coming down from some distant point in the mountains a man-load of deer horns, and bones of wild animals, such as bears and leopards. These are reckoned by the Chinese as exceedingly valuable drugs. They are ground to powder and sold by the native physicians at an enormous price.

The big temple in which we have lodged for a month, is a set of very substantial buildings, with one small court and three rectangular openings in the roofs, through which light, sunshine and rain enter. There are three priests and forty-six idols. The biggest idol is in the sitting posture, but if he were standing he would be ten feet high. The smallest is about eight inches high, and there are all sizes between. There are idols representing male and female deities; some are standing, and some sitting, one flying, some are in groups, others alone. Several idols are adorned with beards, bunches of horse hair stuck on in the most unartistic fashion. Many idols are painted in various colors, and all are certainly ugly.

Worship is carried on regularly by one of the priests at dawn and dusk. Each service lasts about fifteen minutes, and consists in first bowing and placing a lighted incense stick in a box of sand before each idol or group of idols. Then he makes a second round, pounding bells, gongs or drums, which are placed before the idols. There is also a big worship the evening before the first and fifteenth of each month. About 9 p.m., the big temple is lit up by candles placed before all the idols. Each priest passes around in turn. Before each group of idols he bows and prostrates himself three times, knocking his forehead against the