

ARCHDEACON FARRAR says that never was there a time more ripe for missionary enterprise than the present; but the missionary spirit was dull and fast asleep, and needed a loud call and an awakening. He said that one-third of the churches throughout the province of Canterbury contribute absolutely not one penny to missions. Taking London alone, one-fourth of the churches in London contribute absolutely not one penny, so that the amount contributed by the capital, with its ascertained and boasted wealth, if distributed over the population, would amount to not more than 2d. a head. If these statistics are trustworthy, and there seems to be no reason to doubt them, they should make Christian people search and set in order their hearts. The failure to support foreign missions lies, it is to be feared, too often elsewhere than in the absorbing claims of the work to be done at home; it lies in the lack of enthusiasm, and the lack of enthusiasm lies in the lack of faith.

He indignantly denies the assertion, constantly made, that missions are a failure. The number of our Protestant missions at this moment do not exceed 3,000, and they have to deal with 1,250,000,000 of people. To say nothing of indirect results it is evident that Christianity to day is making progress at this day quite as rapid as in its early days, which are referred to as the time of its most splendid triumphs. The late Bishop of Durham wrote a paper in 1873, in which he showed that in the third century Christianity only reckoned one-twentieth of the subjects of the Roman Empire, and one in 150 of the whole human race; whilst in the nineteenth century we find that of the whole human race one fifth part embraces the Christian religion. And so rapid had been the progress that, from the latest statistics, twenty-six per cent of the people of the world profess Christianity. See how, in Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Japan, China, New Zealand, Fiji and India, the truth has been disseminated amongst the inhabitants; and how once demonstrated to them, it has been gladly accepted by all. Each Sunday morning, long ere we rise, the converts in China sing praises to God; then India and Ceylon take up the swelling strain; then it rises up with the dawning sun in East and West Africa; and long after it has died away on our lips it echoes in the far islands of the western sea.

MAX MULLER tells us that nowhere on the earth are heathen religions so much as holding their own; temples are everywhere decaying, are nowhere being built; ancient faiths are crumbling. Now, if ever, the darkened regions of the earth want the hope and expansion the faith of Christ alone can yield.

THE *Star of India* says that among the countries barred to Christian missionaries should be named Nepaul, between India and Thibet, which is a most interesting country

"THE relief of poverty," says Canon Liddon, "the spread of education in principles which would make life useful and death happy, missions to the heathen, the promotion of religious enterprise in any one of its many forms—these and other claimants stood around the man of property, stretching out their hands for a share of his wealth, but he either did not see, heed, or understand them, for he still remained embarrassed by the very abundance of his possessions. The idea that the use of money was to minister to pleasure and amusement was common enough among modern Christians, who were often far worse than the old Pagan rulers. Instead of furnishing pleasures to those who could not pay for anything to brighten their lives, they reflected with self-satisfaction that their enjoyments were a sort of distinction, since they were not shared by others. Doubtless certain expenditure was inevitable in certain stations in life, but that did not warrant the race in *ostentation and luxury* which characterized some sections of modern society, who expended upon equipages, household decorations and theaters, sums which would go far to renew the face of the earth economically, socially and religiously."

LAW FOON, a Christian Chinaman, has sailed with his family, from San Francisco for China. When he began business ten years ago he made a vow that when he had made \$3,000 he would go and preach the gospel to his countrymen. He has now gone out as a self-supporting missionary.

THE Bishop of Exeter has made a rule that hereafter all candidates for orders shall pass an examination in the history of some foreign mission. If lack of interest results, as it often does, from ignorance of missionary work, the remedy will be sufficient, and we hope some day to see the bishop's example followed in many other dioceses.

It is related of Napoleon that when Marshal Duroc, an avowed infidel, was once telling a very improbable story, giving his opinion that it was quite true, the Emperor quietly remarked, "There are some men who are capable of believing everything but the Bible."

WONDERFUL accounts by able writers have been given lately of the progress of Mohammedanism as a missionary religion. The Archbishop of Canterbury recommends any one inclined to be "taken in" by them to read Mr. Haines' "Islam as a Missionary Religion," published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

THERE is a church in Lasingham, Yorkshire, built underground, and is probably the only vestige extant of an ancient Benedictine monastery founded there in A.D. 648 by Cedd, Bishop of the East Saxons. A building of this kind shows vividly the unbroken life and continuity of the English Church.