

Religious Intelligence.



THE EXCEPTIONS PROVE THE RULE.

The Scoffer: "The black sheep among your flock are conspicuous."

The Pastor: "I am glad of that, for they wouldn't be noticeable if they were not surrounded by white ones."

—Ram's Horn.

FOUR YEARS' GROWTH IN METHODIST MISSIONS.

The total membership in the foreign Conferences of the M. E. Church (including probationers) has grown from 182,104 in 1899 to 216,476 in 1903—an increase of 34,372, or seventeen per cent. The regions most fruitful in accessions to membership have been: Korea, from 3,897 to 6,915; the Philippines, from a handful to 7,842; North-west India, from 34,469 to 42,672; Gujarat District, Bombay Conference, from 3,443 to 10,985. The number of Sunday-school pupils has grown from 191,917 to 230,158—a gain of 38,241, or nineteen per cent.

JAPANESE STATESMAN ON CHRISTIANITY.

Baron Maejima, an ex-Cabinet Minister of Japan, says of Christianity: "No matter how large an army or navy we may have, unless we have righteousness at the foundation of our national existence we shall fall short of success. I do not hesitate to say that we must rely upon religion for our highest we are. And when I look about me to see upon what religion we may best rely, I am convinced that the religion of Christ is the one most full of strength and promise for the na-

tion." Viscount Watanabe, a prominent statesman and a Buddhist, warns Christians against the idea that Christianity must be modified to meet the needs of Japan. One reason for the deterioration of Buddhism, he says, has been its modification to suit Japanese ideas. His conclusion is a striking testimony to the religious decay of his own faith: "I do not say that Buddhism is not a religion, but when I ask myself how many modern Buddhists there are that have religious life in their souls, I answer, None!"

CONCERNING THINGS IN THIBET.

Interesting things about Thibet are told in *The Strand Magazine*, by M. Tsybiko. Commissioned by the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, he visited Lhasa, and, strange to say, returned to Russia unharmed. He was struck by the lowness of wages. An ordinary laborer receives three halfpence a day; an expert spinner 3 1-2d.; and a lama, 5d. for a whole day's praying. If well-to-do, a Thibetan invalid engages a lama to read litanies to him: if poor, he gets along with a grain of barley which a lama has blessed—he has more faith in it than in medicine. On account of the immense number of