

Where the Day is Breaking

THAT the tide of missionary zeal is rising is attested by the fact that during the last eight years 809 names have been added to the roll of missionaries sent out by the Church Missionary Society, of which 119 were added during the year ending May last.

IN Italy, Protestantism is on the increase. The recent census shows 62,000 Protestants among the 31,000,000 inhabitants. The Waldenses number 27,000 souls in 48 churches and 45 missions. There are now not less than 15 Protestant churches in the city of Rome.

THE Indian missions of the Canadian Methodist Church have grown in numbers to 54, with 38 missionaries and 51 assistants, with a membership of over 5000 converts from the pagan tribes. The Church has erected numerous schools, industrial institutes, orphanages, and two or three hospitals.

GOD is abundantly rewarding the labors of the Scotch United Presbyterian missions in Nyassaland, Africa. In a land where twenty years ago missionaries entered at the peril of their lives, 4000 converts recently gathered, spent five days in meditation, prayer, and song, and one day 284 converts were baptized, 195 of them adults.

ACCORDING to late official returns there are in Canada 99,364 Indians. Of these 70,394 are classified as belonging to various religious denominations. The greater number, 30,813, are Roman Catholics; 10,129 are Anglicans; 10,273 Methodists; 9,807 Presbyterians, and 10,062 belonging to other Christian bodies. The religion of 12,300 is unknown, and 16,677 are pagans.

THE REV. DR. THOMSON, of the Canadian Presbyterian Church; is doing a remarkably successful work among the Chinese in Montreal. There are 16 schools for these sons of Sinim, with an average of 25 pupils and 22 teachers to each school. The General Assembly had the pleasure, during its sessions, of seeing large gatherings of these Chinamen, some of them active Christian converts.

THE conflict on the Nile is an important one for Christian civilization. It has crushed a power which made commerce in that region impossible. The gateway to Northern Africa is now open. The traffic in slaves is about to be stayed. A vast and fertile country is opened to progressive enterprise. War is again God's thunderstorm which clears the atmosphere of the infection of paganism. From this time there will pour into the dark continent a stream of civilizing influences, for Africa is destined in the next hundred years to make a greater advance than any country under the sun.

I WENT to the East with no enthusiasm as to missionary enterprise. I came back with the fixed conviction that it is, under Providence, the great agent of civilization; and I feel it my duty to add that everywhere in Asia and Africa, among the Kaffirs in Natal, on the continent of India, among the forests of Ceylon, and over the vast expanse of China, the testimony to the success and zeal of our countrymen as missionaries of truth is earnest and concurrent. I heard it everywhere, and from high authority.—*Mr. Reed, Treaty Commissioner of the United States.*

THE gift of a Buddhist temple to the Ningpo Mission has excited great attention as an unprecedented incident in the history of missions. The official account says that when Rev. J. W. Haywood asked the villagers (200 had assembled) if they were willing it should be used as a preaching hall and school, the answer was universal assent. Not only so, when one of the head men said they would convey it by a legal deed of gift, all present shouted "Quite right, quite right!" The British consul pronounced the deed legally valid. In addition to the temple and its demesne, twenty-two Chinese acres of land have also been conveyed.

ALL religions tell one story, of men reaching out their hands for help; but the only religion which tells of God reaching out His hand to men is the religion of Jesus Christ. I have explicit belief in the fall of man and the redemption of human nature, and that the motive power by which the good news of redemption is to be made effectual is in that love that came down from Heaven with the coming of the Son of God. This is the story of missions.

It is seen in Francis Xavier, sailing along the coast of India, and in bitterness of soul crying, "O rock, rock, open for my Master!" and thus touching the heart of the Roman Catholic church and again kindling in it a thirst for missions. It is seen in David Livingstone, writing in his journal, "O God, when shall the great sore of the world be healed?" It is seen in Henry Martyn, dying alone in Persia, and kindling in the heart of England that love that sent out many like Bishop Heber.

And so everywhere—in Bishop Patteson, lying on that heathen shore with the stigma of His Master in the five wounds of His passion, and in the journal of Hannington, "In the heart that is stayed on Him is perfect peace." It is seen in those black boys in Uganda, consenting to have the flesh cut from their bones rather than deny Jesus Christ. And where have men learned such love? I believe that for the most part they have learned it where Augustine learned it—from his mother! where Timothy learned it, when he was trained up in the unfeigned faith of his mother.—*Bishop Whipple.*