

BROIDERY WORK.

BY MARGARET J. PRESTON IN S. S. TIMES.

BENEATH the desert's rim went down the sun,
And from their tent-doors, all their service done,
Came forth the Hebrew women, one by one.

For Bezaleel, the master—who had rare
And curious skill, and gifts beyond compare,
Greater than old Misraim's greatest were—

Had bidden them approach at his command,
As on a goat-skin spread upon the sand,
He sat, and saw them grouped on every hand.

And soon, as came to pass, a silence fell;
He spake, and said: "Daughters of Israel,
I bring a word; I pray ye harken well.

"God's tabernacle, by His pattern made,
Shall fail of finish, though in order laid,
Unless ye women lift your hands to aid."

A murmur ran the crouched assembly through,
As each her veil about her closer drew—

"We are but women! What can women do?"

And Bezaleel made answer: "Not a man
Of all our tribes, from Judah unto Dan,
Can do the thing that just ye women can!

"The gold and broidered work about the hem
Of the priest's robes—pomegranate knop and stem—
Man's clumsy fingers cannot compass them.

"The sanctuary curtains, that must wreathe
And bossed with cherubim—the colors three,
Blue, purple, scarlet—who can twine but ye?

"Yours is the very skill for which I call;
So bring your cunning needlework, though small
Your gifts may seem the Lord hath need of all!"

O Christian women! for the temples set
Throughout earth's desert lands—do you forget
The sanctuary curtains need your broidery yet?

THE *Indian Witness* says:—"At the present time there are, in round numbers, about half a million Protestant Christians in India. One-half of these are comparatively recent converts, and it is too soon to expect them to exert a very perceptible influence on their neighbors, but even allowing for this, the little body of Christians forms a most important factor in the body politic of the Empire. It will not be long till the half million will be a million, and many of our readers will live to see the day when there will be ten million Protestant Christians in India. When that day comes these ten million Christians will be the leaders of Indian thought and Indian progress. Their voice will be more potent in England than the voice of all India is to-day. They will be bolder innovators than any men in India now, and they will be recognized by all classes as the natural leaders of the Indian people."

If we would have God hear what we say to Him by prayer we must be ready to hear what He saith to us by His Word.—*Matthew Henry*.

To rule one's anger is well; to prevent it is better.—*Edwards*.

"I WAS thinking the other day whether I could not find out one single force, acting for the benefit of the human race, that did not come from the cross—that had not its origin from the cross. I cannot find one. Who discovered the interior world of Africa, and set in motion the intellect of that people? Missionaries. Who has solved the problem of preaching liberty to the women of India? Missionaries and their wives. Who first brought into modern geography the hidden lands and rivers of China, unsealed for inspection the scholarship, and opened for the enrichment of commerce the greatest empire of the East? Missionaries. Who first dared the cannibal regions—the cannibal shores of New Zealand and Tonga and Fiji—and converted wolves, whose appetites were for blood, into a nation? Missionaries. To come nearer home, who are those in Europe who are now lifting up their voices against war, that horrible perversion of the intellect, and of the soul of man? Who are devoting their means and influence against vice in high places, and vice in low places, and against the infliction of wrong upon the defenceless? Who are those whose example of righteousness and purity and gentleness conforms with their own spirit, the legislation of governments and the sentiments of society? The followers of the Nazarene. 'The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.'"—*Selected*.

Word and Work (London) points out that Moravian missionaries have long been doing a work similar to and not less valuable than that of Father Damien. In 1818 a Moravian hospital for lepers was started amongst the Hottentots, and has been kept up ever since, the missionaries residing amongst the patients. The Robben Island asylum, with its hundreds of sufferers, was soon after started by the Moravian Missionary Society, and still exists in full work, the missionaries of course living with the lepers. In 1867 an asylum for lepers was started in Jerusalem by the same society, and has since been much enlarged, four missionaries having devoted their lives to the work.—*Missionary Review of the World*.

It will surprise most people to learn that the Icelanders are numerous enough in this country and Canada to maintain a distinct and vigorous religious organization of their own. It is called the Icelandic Lutheran Church of America, consists of 22 congregations, and has just held its fifth annual conference at Argyle in Manitoba.—*New York Sun*.

THERE are still over 10,000,000 square miles of unoccupied districts in various heathen lands, where missionaries thus far have never entered.

No state can be more destitute than that of a person who, when the delights of sense forsake him, has no pleasure of the mind.—*Burgh*.