

cold repudiation. "Master," said John, "we saw one casting out devils in Thy name, and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against you is for you."

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IN some of the Western States, where the rainfall is exceedingly scant, the water of the mountain streams is dammed up into vast reservoirs, whence it is drawn as needed for purposes of irrigation. But cases have occurred where the pent-up waters, swollen by sudden rainfall, or by swiftly melting snows, have proved too strong for the restraining barriers, and bursting away like an avalanche, they have spread death and destruction in their path. Had provision been made whereby the rising waters could have been distributed in a thousand channels over the thirsty plains below, such a catastrophe could not have occurred. There has been a tendency in the Church to perpetrate the same folly, to dam up the healing waters in the home reservoirs, while the limitless plain of heathenism lies parched and dead. But the missionary spirit is rising, and the Church must find safe channels for the overflow, before misguided zeal shall sweep the barriers away.

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THE great student uprising is a case in point. In the last two or three years some 4,000 students in American and Canadian colleges have volunteered for the foreign field, and the number is increasing daily. It is quite possible that many of these have been moved by no higher motive than a romantic sympathy, and a few years will see a great thinning out of numbers; but even then there will remain a grand contingent of picked men ready for the field. What shall be done with them? Will the Churches at once lead the way, and utilize to the fullest extent this splendid enthusiasm? or will she, by unwise repression, compel it to find some other outlet, even if it has to sweep away barriers in doing so? One thing is certain, this newly awakened energy will expend itself somewhere, and it is for our existing missionary organization to say whether it shall be inside or outside of church lines.

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ANOTHER phase of the movement is seen in the wonderfully rapid growth of the Society of Christian Endeavor, and the Epworth League. In less than a decade these organizations have spread a network over this entire continent, and are absorbing much of the useful zeal and devotion of the Churches. The movement is full of promise, but it needs to be wisely guided. It is but another evidence of pent-up spiritual

energy seeking an outlet, and if it does not find a channel it will make one, and, perhaps, do much damage in making it. The lesson from history as well as from Scripture is, Don't put new wine into old bottles; don't compel youthful enthusiasm to flow in the narrow rut of old prejudices. Guide it if you will, but let it have full scope, and you will find no safer channel than that which leads to the boundless field of foreign missions.

#### NOTES FROM JAPAN.

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

(Concluded from p. 36.)

MY work in Japan was now ended, and as the steamer would not sail for a week, I had a few day's leisure to look about me. Most of the foreigners had gone to the mountains, as the hot season had fairly set in, and it was suggested that a short trip to some one of the attractive spots in the interior would be a pleasant memory after the homeward voyage was begun. A kind invitation from Dr. and Mrs. Cochran to spend a few days at Nikko, a delightful summer retreat, where many of the missionaries and teachers are wont to assemble during the hot months, was gladly accepted, and early one morning a start was made. The trip involved three and a half hours by rail, and twenty-five miles by jinrikisha. After leaving the railway we found the roads in rather poor condition, owing to recent heavy rains, and as nearly the whole distance was on an up-grade, the time consumed in reaching Nikko from the railway station was over seven hours. Apart from the state of the roads, the trip was delightful. For the first half of the distance the highway is bordered on either side by a row of pines, and the second half by a row—sometimes two—of the stately *Cryptomeria Japonica*, their branches meeting overhead and forming an avenue of indescribable beauty for miles and miles together. The old village of Nikko has no great beauty, but on reaching the end of the street and crossing a bridge over a rapid stream, a second and newer village is reached. Here the outlook is lovely. Circling hills on every side, and mountains rising beyond. In the twenty-five miles we have risen nearly 2,000 feet, but so well is the road constructed that the ascent is scarcely perceived on the journey. The mountains are covered with trees or grass to the very summit, and a river rushes down the valley in a succession of beautiful cascades. In a grove in the rear are the most famous temples in all Japan, and they are worth a long journey to see. If Westminster Abbey is a poem in stone, these temples are a poem in gold and lacquer. In Westminster the charm is in the stately architecture; here