

arising from this circumstance, the subscription to the General Fund last year amounted to \$4,214, besides liberally supporting and carrying on city mission work. May we not learn a lesson from past experience regarding the opening up of work in China. The indications have been many and plain that the Lord is in the movement, and is it not the duty of the Church to go forth in faith "with a glad heart and free?"

* * *

THE reports concerning the work of the Tabernacle mission, Tokyo, Japan, are most encouraging. Dr. Eby writes:—"Besides excellent public services, we have flourishing women's and children's meetings, a large Bible-class, and a Sunday-school which is the wonder of the city in the present condition of the churches. Best of all, there are conversions almost every week."

* * *

WE greatly regret to learn that the Rev. Dr. Cochran's medical advisers will not sanction his return to Japan until his health is more thoroughly established. The Doctor has been resting in California during the year, and until within the past few weeks it was hoped that he would be able to return to Japan in time to resume work in September next.

Editorial and Contributed.

ON the first page of this issue is a map of China, the large star indicating the part of the country in which it is intended to open up work. Some idea of the distance our missionaries will have to travel to reach their destination may be gained from the fact that after they arrive at the mouth of the River Yang-tse-kiang, which will occupy about twenty-eight days, it will take two months to reach Chen-too—the principal mode of travel up the river being in native boats, which is necessarily slow. It is more than likely that in the near future this mode of travel will be a thing of the past. A missionary, in writing to the *New York Christian Advocate*, says:—

"The air is full of rumors about railroads. Upon our return to China last fall, we travelled upon a newly-constructed railroad from Taku to Tien-tsin, when each car was well filled with passengers. Not many years will elapse before China will be intersected with various lines of railroads, probably following the routes already marked out by the telegraph lines, which now unite the most distant provinces of China, as well as the rest of the world, with Peking."

A more speedy method of conveyance will be a great accommodation to the missionary, yet it has a dark side.

Dr. Hart in setting forth the advantages arising from the position of the province in which our work is to be located, gave, as one, the lack of foreign element. It is disgraceful that one of the chief difficulties the missionary has to encounter is the wickedness introduced and indulged in by those representing Christian nations.

However, China is progressing. She has been watching Japan, the adamantine exclusiveness is gradually giving way, and she is steadily, if slowly, following in the footsteps of her sister.

The Chinese have always adhered to the conviction that all nations are, or ought to be, tributary to the "Son of Heaven," hence the Emperor would never receive foreign representatives on equal terms. Some years ago Lord Amherst was sent to China, but his embassy failed simply because the Emperor insisted on the ceremony of the Kow-tow, or bumping the head on the ground in the presence of the Emperor, being an essential element in the etiquette of the audience. To consent to this would be to acknowledge the inferiority of England to China. As Lord Amherst firmly refused to comply with the conditions, no audience was held.

For the Emperor to receive foreigners on terms of equality is an innovation that the Chinese will concede only under strong pressure. But the young Emperor Kuang-Hsu, whose name signifies "Brilliant Beginnings," made a beginning by taking the reins of government so far into his own hands as to issue an edict inviting the various ambassadors residing in Peking to an audience with his majesty.

On the 5th of March last, this event took place; the Emperor personally received the foreign representatives on equal terms, and not as the despised "foreign devils" of past years. The reception was held in the "Hall of Tributaries" ("Shining Purple Hall"), in which representative states present gifts and knock heads to the Emperor, and it is said by foreigners residing in the country, that, while the officials of the foreign legations did not perform the Kow-tow, still the holding it in this "Hall of Tributaries" was to the Chinese mind, acknowledging the inferior position of the various powers which they represented.

However it may be viewed by the Chinese, the fact that the Emperor has received representatives of foreign states, to all outward appearance, on equal terms in the face of the opposition which doubtless he had to contend against, gives promise of better things in the near future, especially as he has signified his intention of making it a yearly occurrence.

DR. LIVINGSTONE made it a rule never to read or preserve any words of praise.