

8,000 Chinese, whom it ought to be much easier to impress with the beauty and truth of the Christian religion when they are amongst us, than if they were in China. "For our Canadian Presbyterianism, from a Foreign as from a Home Mission point of view, the west holds the key of future." The same opportunity will never again occur. If it is lost now it can never be recalled.

We do not believe these views of our present position as a church to be over stated. They are such as we believe the most thoughtful, far-seeing men in our church would subscribe to. As regards our rapidly advancing Home Mission work, and the claims it is making upon the church, these have been laid upon us without our seeking them in the providential ordering of events. And as to our Foreign Mission work we do not believe that in it we have run without being sent. What an overwhelming responsibility rests therefore upon our church for the zealous prosecution and adequate support of both.

This is simply a question of willing consecration on the part of the church to the work. God has put into our hands the financial ability to do it. Are we willing to use it for this purpose? This is the simple question. The total number of communicants reported last year is 181,370. If 150,000 of these could be got to contribute for these purposes at the rate per week of but little over three cents, the entire sum would be raised; or if 100,000 would give but a little over four and a half cents weekly, the whole amount would be forthcoming. It lies very much with ministers and sessions whether this shall be done or not. If by pondering over this great subject, considering deeply how closely the honour and glory, and interest of Christ and His kingdom are identified with it, they would rise to some adequate appreciation of the greatness of the opportunity and of the peril which God in His providence is setting before us, if they would themselves become inspired with a holy enthusiasm in this great work, if they would master the facts and set them before their congregations, and set them at the same time an example of willing, joyful and sustained consecration to this great service, we verily believe that the Canadian Church would, under such leadership, rise to the greatness of the occasion, and in doing so would give and receive such a blessing as we have never done before, one which would be but the prelude to still greater blessings to the church at home and abroad.

A REAL HARDSHIP.

SOME of the difficulties, not a few, indeed, with which the ministers of our church in the far west have to contend with, are unknown to their brethren in the east and so are also unthought of. It is hard enough often for those in the east with moderate salaries to make ends meet, how much more so must it be in similar circumstances in the distant west! A correspondent in the Presbytery of Calgary sets forth one of the hardships of the pioneer minister. He says:

Our Presbytery covers a large amount of territory, 550 miles long by about 350 broad, and the expense of frequent meetings would be altogether beyond our means. The travelling expenses alone cost about \$120 to \$150 for each gathering at Presbytery.

It is altogether too bad that so much should be expected out of the private funds of the members considering the high price of living and of things generally in the North-west.

Those who expect to attend Synod in Nanaimo, in May next will have to pay (even with reduced rates) in the neighbourhood of \$45 to \$60 each, and you can judge what it means for any of the Western Presbyteries to be represented at the General Assembly in the far east. Two overtures have been framed with a view of somewhat equalizing the expenses."

It may be difficult to devise practical measures by which this real hardship may be overcome, but it certainly ought to be done if possible. It should, at any rate, be known to the church that not a few of our ministers who are so bravely, and yet so quietly and unostentatiously doing the church's work and our common Master's work, are doing it under these special difficulties in addition to those which under any circumstances are met with. In view of statements such as those we have just given, and which were not made in a spirit of complaint, it can easily be seen of what importance it is to sustain fully our Argumentation Fund so that no minister shall be deprived of what has been promis-

ed him and what he is depending upon. If in the East, where ministers are more thickly settled, attendance at Presbytery meetings is important because of the work, how much more necessary must it be in the West, where constant, watchful oversight is so much more needed and where there are fewer to give it, that every minister at least should be able always without hardship to attend his Presbytery meeting. The isolation also in which most of our ministers in the far West have to live and carry on their work makes attendance at Presbytery on that ground most desirable. Struggling, as so many of them are, with wide fields of labour and scattered flocks, far removed from the sympathy, companionship and help of brethren, it is doubly needful that every missionary so situated, should, as often as Presbytery or Synod meeting comes, be stimulated, cheered and have his lot brightened by meeting, if at all possible, with his brethren in their periodical gatherings. The overture, which has been brought up with a view to lighten or remove the hardship spoken of, will, we trust, lead to some solution of the difficulty. It has always appeared to us that the ministers' expenses connected with attendance at church courts should be very largely borne by the people. The reasonableness of this is obvious; the business to be done at these meetings is not the minister's business; it is that of the church and the expense connected with it should therefore be met by the church at large; and again the cost attendant upon it, which, falling upon one man with a very modest income is felt to be large and burdensome, would be so trifling as hardly to be felt if it were distributed over the whole congregation to whom it properly belongs. This is the case for the most part we believe in the east, and it ought to be in the west, where there is most need for the burden being shared. This method, which makes it lighter for all, would also increase the interest of the people in the business of the church courts, which, by having to bear the expense of in part at least, they would gradually get to learn was their business, and in which therefore they ought to feel an interest.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

THERE is a present deficit in the Ordinary French Evangelization and Pointe-aux-Trembles Funds of eight thousand dollars.

The Executive of the Board has accordingly resolved to appeal to the congregations of the church for a special collection on Thanksgiving Day (Nov 22).

The work of the past half year presents many encouraging features. Colporteurs report a growing desire among the people to listen to and speak about the things of the Gospel, although forbidden to read it and warned against those who sell it by their Church.

There has been a good attendance at the mission day schools, about one-half of the pupils being Roman Catholic.

The Pointe-aux-Trembles schools opened on the 16th of October. There are already over one hundred and fifty pupils in attendance.

The missionaries and their work are being more appreciated. While rejoicing over conversions in the face of difficulties and opposition known only to those in the field, they deplore in many quarters a recognition of the truth without the conviction necessary to its acceptance or rejection.

The needs and condition of the work call for the utmost liberality consistent with other missionary claims.

On behalf of the Executive of the Board of French Evangelization.

D. H. MACVICAR, D.D., LL.D., Chairman.

S. J. TAYLOR, Secretary.

Montreal, November, 1894.

The London Reform Union has hit upon an excellent method of promoting its objects by securing the co-operation of a large and influential body of London ministers of all denominations in promoting what it calls a London Reform Sunday, an occasion for bringing simultaneously to the notice of the various congregations the problems of the great city's life. Christianity should be steam in the boiler supplying motive power for every moral and social reform.

Books and Magazines.

CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS. By Arthur H. Smith. Fleming H. Revel Company, Toronto.

The author of this book was twenty-two years a missionary of the American Board in China. These articles composing it, first appeared in the *North China Daily News*, of Shanghai, and excited so much interest in China, Britain, the United States and Canada, that the author was asked to reproduce them in permanent form. Our own missionaries in Honan found them an excellent help in understanding the Chinese and thus an introduction to their work. The first edition was soon sold out, and the second edition now appears, enlarged and beautifully illustrated. Next to hearing a returned missionary speak, who knows what to tell, or even seeing with our own eyes, is the reading of this volume. The author has a fascinating style; is scrupulously careful as to his facts, and a keen observer, so that his descriptions of the many phases of Chinese character may be accepted as trustworthy. For such as lead mission bands, or seek to interest any class, old or young, we know nothing so highly entertaining and reliably instructive. Chinese politeness, economy, perseverance, disregard for accuracy, contempt for foreigners, indifference to comfort, filial piety, etc., are so vividly portrayed that we feel that China is no longer an unknown country. This volume has the additional advantage of not being an expensive one.

PELOUBET'S SELECT NOTES. A Commentary on the Sunday-School Lessons for 1895, by Rev. F. N. Peloubet, D.D., and M. A. Peloubet, 346 pp. Illustrated, \$1.25. W. A. Wilde & Co., 25 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass.

While different casts of minds will prefer different kinds of Sabbath school helps, for ourselves we can say, and we speak from actual experience, that we have found no one single volume so thoroughly helpful as Peloubet. It seeks to reach and satisfy both the head and heart, and to a very large degree it succeeds. Its material is abundant, yet condensed. This year the first six months completes the study of the Life of Christ, and the Notes supply an abundance of the most helpful and interesting material regarding both the action and aim of the last years of our Master. In July the International Lessons go back to the Old Testament, and with great skill the editor has garnered such facts, illustrations, and explanations as will so illumine the text as to make it intelligible and profitable to every teacher and scholar. The whole volume is freely illustrated, and with its finely drawn, accurate maps and beautifully printed pages is a delight to possess, both for external beauty and its positive helpfulness to every student of the Bible. This volume is the twenty first, and, so far as we have been able to examine it, it is also the best.

OUR JOURNEY ROUND THE WORLD. An Illustrated Record of a Year's Travel of Forty Thousand Miles Through India, China, Japan, etc., etc. By Rev. Francis E. Clark, D.D., President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, with glimpses of Life in Far-Off Lands, by Mrs. Harriet E. Clark. A. D. Worthington & Co., Hartford, Conn., U.S.

There is nobody, now, but knows Father Endeavor Clark. This book is an account of his travels round the world, on his Christian Endeavor Mission round the world, in which he was lovingly followed by so many hearts and eyes. His Christian Endeavor work proper has been elsewhere told, so that this is a book of travel out of the usual beaten path of globe-trotters, in which he has rendered all the assistance that kind friends could give to see whatever was thought worth seeing. Mrs. Clark writes a supplementary chapter to let readers see life in far-off lands, as seen through a woman's eyes. The style is lively, chatty, pleasant; the type large; a wealth of illustrations are found in every part of the book, besides a good map showing the route followed. Altogether the book deserves to be, as we have no doubt it will be, widely and well read.

THE OUTLINE HANDBOOK OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST. Stevens and Barton. Published by Silver Burdett & Company, Boston.

The Harmony by those same authors is decidedly the most convenient and complete we have used. With this Outline Handbook, an student with common intelligence, patience and application can make a most thorough study of the life of Christ. The price 50c brings it within the reach of all. We cordially commend it.

The November number of *Knox College Monthly* contains a number of readable and useful articles. "The Sermon" is by Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, and all who know how long and assiduously the doctor has been dealing with this subject, will read his article with interest. A symposium upon "How I Prepare my Sermons" will also attract the attention of ministers and students. "A Sketch of the Jubilee of Knox College" is by Rev. Professor McLaren. A very striking article is that by the Rev. Charles W. Gordon, B.A., of Winnipeg, well deserving the most serious consideration of the whole church. Other contributors are Rev. M. P. Talling, B.A., Rev. Principal Sheraton, D.D., and Prof. Archibald MacMeehan. Campbell & Paton, Milton, Ont.

So long as the present standard of excellence in its illustrations is kept up, the *Cosmopolitan* cannot fail to be interesting. That for November does not fall below the standard. The "Portraits of Women," the first articles contains portraits of varied, but great beauty to look upon. "The Great British Northwest Territory," is a sketch of our great Northwest, accompanied by exquisite views of exquisite bits of scenery. Very interesting are "The Art Schools of America"; "Public Control of Urban Transit"; "The Chiefs of the American Press," and "The Public Library Movement." Stories for lighter reading, literary and art gossip, make this an always welcome magazine. The *Cosmopolitan* Co., New York.