

obtained over \$100,000 from the civil and military officers by his personal appeals, rallied around him a noble band of helpers, and, in short, did admirably, efficiently, a work which might easily have been mismanaged with direful consequences to the Mission's future.

To-day the Methodist Episcopal Church has property in Southern Asia to the value of \$2,393,102, and members and adherents to the number of 185,258. In 1876 she had one Conference. To-day she has nine. She is preaching the Gospel in nearly forty languages, has about 100 foreign workers in these fields, 1,500 native workers, and 140,000 scholars in the Sunday-schools. She has built orphanages and hospitals, schools and colleges, and in India alone she has six printing presses sending out their hundreds of millions of pages of Christian literature. It is said that if Christianity were wiped out of the rest of the world there is enough potency in the Christianity of India to evangelize the world. It is significant that the greatest missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church is carried on in British India under the protection of the Red Cross flag that is the symbol of law and light and liberty wherever it waves.

#### THE DIVORCE PROBLEM.

According to recent statistics, there are more divorces in the United States in one year than in all Europe, Australia, and the British dominions in the same time. There are two thousand times as many divorces as in the Canada, the population being only fifteen times as great. Bishop Doane, the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Albany, in an article in *Public Opinion*, draws attention to the fact that in some states there is one divorce to every eight marriages, and in one state, one to every six, and that three hundred divorces were granted in Chicago in a single day.

"This can only mean that there is widespread failure to recognize the sacredness of marriage, that it is beginning to be considered more or less as a contract which, because it is entered into carelessly, can be escaped from easily at the caprice of either party to it."

There is surely no uncertainty in the simplicity of the words of Jesus Christ concerning the remarriage of the divorced: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her."

Bishop Doane believes that public sentiment might be educated largely by the social ostracism of those who have re-

married. He calls on the leaders of society to awaken to their duty.

In the same connection, Mrs. Schoff, the president of the National Congress of Mothers, after showing that in the thirty-four years between 1867 and 1901 only sixty-nine divorces were granted in Canada, 700,000 were granted in the United States in the same period, makes this striking statement: "Seven hundred thousand shattered homes, fourteen hundred thousand broken vows, at least fourteen hundred thousand children innocent victims of the disrupted homes and who are worse than orphaned, for their parents have shattered their idea of marriage, of parenthood, and of home."

#### DEATH OF DR. PARKER.

The death of Dr. Parker removes from among us one of the best known and best beloved of our senior ministers. His long career was filled to the very end with deeds of love and ministries of mercy. All over this land the tidings of his death will convey a sense of personal loss to many who have felt the inspiration of his ministry. He possessed every honour that his Conference could give, was twice President and many times elected Chairman of the District, and delegate to many General Conferences. His last charge, that of hospital chaplain, was one that taxed his sympathies and energies perhaps as much as any he undertook. He was indeed a minister of grace and comfort to the sick and suffering and sorrowing. The large attendance of his old comrades at his funeral, and the tender and beautiful tributes to his memory, showed how strong and tender was the tie that knit him to their souls.

In our own land many years ago that wise educationist devised a system of religious and ethical, but not denominational instruction and prepared a manual of Christian ethics which commanded the approval of nearly all the churches. But denominational bigotry in some sections prevented its adoption. The Bishop of Carlisle urges the adoption of some such middle course in England. "I will not sacrifice," he says, "on the altar of my denominational doctrine, however sacred and sublime to me, the spiritual hope of the nation and the religious training of hosts of children whose only opportunity of learning of God and their own Divine origin and destiny is in the day school. To do otherwise is, in my judgment, not only a great national betrayal, but moral and spiritual infanticide on a stupendous scale."