

GOD'S WORD ITS OWN ATTESTOR.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Some 12 years ago a learned Coolin Brahman, who was then an ordained Presbyterian minister in India, paid a visit to the Bible House. In the course of a most instructive conversation, he was asked what first drew his attention to Christianity. He said that while waiting to see a gentleman at whose house he had called, he took up a book lying on the table, and turned to the opening page. The first words instantly arrested his attention: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Being familiar with the Hindu Cosmogony, so prolonged, abstruse, and wearisome, the brevity, dignity, and self-evident truth of this assertion so impressed him that he at once procured a Bible and read it carefully, with the ultimate result that he became a whole-hearted and avowed believer both in the Written and in the Living Word.—*Bible Society Reporter*.

"In a mountain village, near Broosa, a Turkish New Testament found its way to an apprentice. For some time he read it secretly. Being convinced of its truth, he followed it as best he could. Becoming aroused to the duty of sharing so precious a treasure with others, he began to preach it to his townsmen. Others became interested and convinced. Thus without foreign missionary or teachers a Protestant community was formed."

Whoever made that book made me. It knows all that is in my heart. It tells me what no one else except God knows about me. Whoever made me, wrote that book.—*Bishop Boone's Chinese assistant in the translation of the Bible before his conversion.*

The Bible Among the Japanese.

A prominent Japanese Buddhist newspaper, in a long article reviewing the present condition of the Buddhism in Japan, while defending that faith, has some trenchant criticisms upon its leaders and their methods of work. It declares that there is now far too much philosophy and too little religion in Buddhist teaching. Its most striking utterance concerns the difference between the use which Buddhists make of their scriptures and the use which Christians make of their Bible. This article says: "The use which the ordinary Buddhist

convert makes of his sacred books is something entirely different from that of the Christian. The latter reads and derives comfort and instruction from his Bible on all occasions. As he sits by the fire, or lies in his bed, in times of joy, or in times of sorrow, the earnest Christian may be seen poring over the sacred page. What he reads he seeks to understand and apply. But the Buddhist uses his Bible as a charm only. He does not seek to understand it. As he listens to the Scriptures being read, he says he is conscious of being blessed thereby, he knows not how. This savors of incantation, and is quite inferior to the intelligent appreciation of Biblical teaching found among devout Christians."—*Selected.*

JAPAN.

Already Christianity has given to Japan one Cabinet minister, two Judges of the Court of Cassation, two Speakers of the House of Commons (one elected twice), two or three assistant Cabinet Ministers, besides a number of chairmen of legislative committees, judges of the Appellate Courts, etc. In the present Parliament the Speaker and thirteen members are Christians; one of them was elected by a majority of five to one, to represent a strongly Buddhist district. In the navy the captains of the two largest men-of-war are Christians. Three of the great daily papers of Tokio are in the hands of Christians and in several others Christians are at the head of the various editorial departments. The best charitable institutions are under Christian directors.—*Church Missionary Society Report.*

CHINA.

Among our mission assets to-day we reckon not only the number we already have, but also the multitudes we are soon certain to have. Here in China, for example, it has been long work, and hard work, and up-hill work; but now the abundance of those Gentiles is beginning to come in. In one province alone—that of Fukkien, the applicants for admission in the past year amount to 20,000. Of these some 5000 have been accepted. A little while, yet a little while, and we shall see marvels of grace in China. And this is the word that comes to us to-day from so many missionary fields. They are whitening for the harvest on every hand. Where are the reapers? Dr. Ashmore in *The Baptist Missionary Magazine*.