

This year it is independent, and all our finances are well up."

Let some more of our domestic missions take courage and do likewise.

WE are getting out the rewards for Juvenile Collectors as quickly as possible, and would like to have all orders filled before the meeting of the Conferences. Will the ministers kindly see that all our little friends have their rewards before the close of the Conference year. Send on the lists, please, without delay.

Editorial and Contributed.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

THE Church of God has no need to be ashamed to exhibit the results of modern missionary labours. Much of the work has been only of a preparatory character, acquiring most difficult languages, overcoming the most deeply-rooted prejudices, making a landing upon hostile shores, and entering the great centres and strongholds of heathenism. Yet to-day there are more than two millions of native Christians, won from idolatry, while whole peoples have been civilized. Just look for a moment at the condition of the world eighty years ago, when this work began.

How was Africa? Almost unknown; its shores visited only by the slave-dealer in his inhuman traffic. Now its six thousand miles of sea coast and its ten thousand miles of river roadway explored; its seven thousand miles of rich lands penetrated by travellers and traders, crossed with railways, and planted with missions. More than two thousand missionaries and Christian workers toiling in Africa.

How was China then? Hermetically sealed. Robert Morrison, that glorious pioneer missionary of the celestial empire, laboured seven years before he made his first convert. Now, no less than thirty missionary societies are at work in China, and converts begin to swarm like bees.

How was India? Wholly given up to idolatry. Now there are the graves of six hundred missionaries, who sleep in the soil of India, the true seed of the churches, for recently in one year no less than sixty thousand converts were added to the Christian faith.

How was Japan? Those sea-gates of the Land of the Rising Sun were bolted and barred; now the Light of the World is rising over that insular empire. It is only thirteen years since the first Protestant church was organized, and at the rate of progress since then, Japan will be Christian by the year nineteen hundred. The Anno Domini has taken the place of the old pagan calendar; the seventh day, as a day of rest, has taken

the place of the old fifth day; and, according to Dr. Gracey, "Japan is ripe for the Christian religion, and may become Christian by royal decree in a day."

How were the Isles of the Sea? The very habitations of cruelty. Now many of them have become sparkling gems in the Redeemer's Crown. The epitaph over the grave of John Geddes, in the New Hebrides, is expressive of the many Gospel transformations.

"When he came here
He found no Christians;
When he left
He left no heathens."

Why, the whole globe is girdled with missionary stations. And everywhere the fruit shakes like Lebanon. How wonderful these changes. As the globe seems in this fast age to be spinning faster than ever on its axis, and flying more swiftly than ever through the heavens, we realize that the Gospel work is advancing with like rapidity. And as every corner of the globe has been ransacked, and the last unexplored portion of the Dark Continent opened up, even to the mighty Congo basin, with its fifty millions, do we as Christians realize the meaning of the significant fact that there is not a single corner of the globe which is not open to the Gospel? Does it not seem as if God were saying to His Church, with added emphasis, "The field is the world; go, take, and possess it?"

H. JOHNSTON.

THE "GLAD TIDINGS" SAFE.

MUCH anxiety was caused by a despatch from Victoria, B.C., published in several papers, to the effect that the mission steam-yacht *Glad Tidings* was nearly a week overdue, and it was feared she was lost. A private telegram to the General Secretary conveys the gratifying intelligence that the *Glad Tidings* arrived safely at Victoria during Conference, after a stormy passage.

"Clouds may lighten, lips may whiten,
Praying looks be dark with dread;
Sails may shiver, true hearts quiver,
At death going overhead;
Yet though winds and waters wrestle,
Masts may spring and bulwarks dip,
Safely rides the lab'ring vessel,
While the Saviour's in the ship."

SUNDAY-SCHOOL MISSIONARY EXERCISE.

The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church—Motto for 1887: "A QUARTER OF A MILLION FOR MISSIONS."

Who was the first Christian missionary? Christ.

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God; and the twelve were with him."—*Luke* viii. 1.