

JAPAN IN WAR TIME.

A missionary writes: "The war has been a marvellous revelation of Japan's capacities and character. I believe, too, that if Russia comes to ask for terms she will find her brave antagonist far more generous and large-hearted than many think. What preserves the nation throughout is that it not only loves to create high ideals, but keeps its gaze steadily on them. It is quite a passion with the nation at large to show itself reasonable and considerate of other nations' just claims. The continued successes do not intoxicate, but rather the contrary; they sober the nation with the sense of enlarged responsibilities. Colonel MacPherson was calling here yesterday. He had, at Hiroshima, visited the Russian wounded among the prisoners, and watched them being tended by Japanese nurses. Just think of the wonder of this. When we let the memory run back some sixty years and think what Japan was then, and of all that has happened since, to lead up to the scene of Japanese trained nurses in Red Cross uniform doing all they know for the wounded of the enemy, and that enemy one of the strongest military powers, but checked unexpectedly by Japan in the very midst of its expansion to the seaboard of the Far East."

THE IMPORTANCE OF MANCHURIA.

"To multitudes of intelligent people," says *The Missionary Review*. "Manchuria, with its 365,000 square miles, and 18,000,000 inhabitants, is scarcely more than a name. But Senator Beveridge tells us that it is as large as Germany and France together; that England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales are not one-third as extensive as Manchuria; that Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, all of New England, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa together are hardly equal to this colossal province. And it is a splendid agricultural land, well wooded and watered, and full also of gold, iron, and coal. It is little wonder that Russia is determined to keep it."

FEAR OF A NEW BOXER UPRISING.

The murder of Bishop Verhaegen and two Roman Catholic priests in China has given rise to rumours of further troubles from the anti-foreign rabble in Northern China. Some missionaries are said to have

left Pe-chih-li Province, and mission property is reported to have been destroyed. A band of missionaries on furlough in America have received orders to await developments before returning. We understand, however, that the reports of disturbances have been exaggerated, and we do not anticipate serious trouble.

METHODISM IN AUSTRALIA.

The General Conference held in Melbourne during the past summer was the first of the United Church. But so complete already is the fusion of the various Methodist bodies that except for an occasional allusion, no one would know that the Methodism of Australia had once been divided. Mention was made with much gratitude of the example of the union of the Canadian Methodist bodies. Is it not possible that the world may by and by be grateful to young Canada for leading the way in union on a still broader basis?

One hundred and eighty members were present at the Conference. The most noted laymen were Sir Frederick Holder, Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, and Sir Samuel Way, Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, and member of the Judicial Section of the British Privy Council.

It is proposed to raise £10,000 to carry out a Forward Movement for Missions.

Roughly speaking, Australasian Methodism contains 1,000 ministers and home missionaries, 6,000 local preachers, 4,000 churches, 140,000 members, 200,000 Sunday-school scholars, 11 colleges, upwards of 600,000 adherents, and the members have increased 10,000 the last three years.

The Rev. Egerton R. Young, who was so warmly received in Australia, suggested the advantage of sending delegates from Australasia to Canada, and vice versa.

It was easy to note a marked trend toward one evangelical Church for Australia. There were present at the General Conference delegates from various other Churches, including two bishops and an archdeacon of the Church of England. It is believed to be the first time Anglican bishops ever visited a Methodist Conference. Says a writer, Nothing impressed me so much as the following words from Presbyterian lips: "Can I give up Presbyterianism for Methodism? A thousand times, No. Can I give up Presbyterianism for Christ? A thousand times, Yes."