

## LETTER FROM A PASTOR.

Dear Children :

The attention of christian people is now being directed to the peninsula of Corea on the East of Asia. For a long time this country has been sealed against the gospel and no foreigner was allowed to enter it. Lately it has been opened and is now occupied as a mission field. A book has recently been published giving an account of its history, manners, and religion, and very likely it will find its way into some Sabbath School libraries. It will be read with much interest for many will now wish to learn something of this land.

Corea contains a population more than twice as large as Canada, and the children of the country especially little girls live in a most wretched condition. When 8 or 10 years of age they are engaged to their future husbands. If in after years they become mothers their husbands can put them away for a very slight fault, and they must take the children and provide for them. When boys and girls reach four or five years of age they use tobacco and everybody smokes both men and women.

When the King goes out on the street he is carried, and over his head is a rich canopy of gold. There must be no noise as he passes along, every door and window must be shut, and nobody is allowed to look at him. If he meets any great men or soldiers they must turn their backs to him, they would not dare to gaze at him or to cough.

They are also very superstitious and every tree, mountain, water course, kitchen and chimney has its god. To these gods they must pray, present gifts, and perform penance that they may appease them.

Last year the Presbyterian Church in the United States sent a missionary to this country, Dr. Allen. He has gone alone into dark Corea the pioneer of the Gospel and many prayers have been offered in his behalf. God is already answering the prayers and has opened up the way for him in a most remarkable manner. He has secured a residence and now a home and is preparing the way for mission work.

Not long after reaching the capital of the country, a rebellion broke out which lasted several days. A good many people were wounded, who were placed under the care of Dr. Allen, the missionary. He showed a great deal of skill in teaching them, and the natives were much astonished in seeing the wounded healed.

In this way he has gained a position and much influence over the people.

The king, queen, and leading men, have become his warm friends. The government at their own expense are building a hospital to be under the missionary's charge. By this means his influence will be extended and many hearts will be opened to receive the gospel.

How wonderful God carries out His purposes. He is never at a loss for agents, and frequently He makes the wrath of man to praise Him.

Pray that Corea's millions may soon be brought to the Saviour.

D.

## LYING OR STEALING.

A little girl came in her night-clothes, very early one morning, to her mother, saying, 'Which is worst, mamma, to tell a lie or steal?' The mother replied that both were so bad she could not tell which was worse. 'Well,' said the little one, 'I've been thinking a good deal about it, and I've concluded it's worse to lie than to steal. If you steal a thing you can take it back, less you've eaten it, and if you have eaten it you can pay for it. But'—and there was a look of awe in her little face—'a lie is forever.'

## SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA.

A sad picture of the depredations of the slave trade around the southern extremity of Lake Tanganyika is thus given by Rev. Mr. Swan, of the London Society Mission :

'This district was once the most flourishing around Tanganyika. It was destroyed shortly before we arrived ; but the people returned, believing themselves safe near us. Alas ! it is not so. Last year, after grubbing up the ground, they planted their crops with great labor ; just as they were fit to be gathered, down swept the followers of the Arabs connected with Tippu Tib, and as I write this they are passing along the opposite bank of the Lolu loaded with the crops of these poor Walungu. Men are captured and enslaved with wives and families, homes broken up year by year, and that at our very doors. Cannot something be done to prevent this ?

Were there only motives of humanity to inspire the missionary work, they were quite sufficient. To read daily of the habitations of cruelty which still exist, and to attempt no relief were a crime.