

crossed, penetrated by missionary bands, and is drawing to herself the wondering gaze of the world; Polynesia's thousand church-spires point, like fingers to the sky, and where the cannibal ovens roasted the victims for the feast of death, the Lord's table is now spread for the feast of life and love. Even papal lands now invite Christian labor. McAll crowds Paris and surrounding cities with his hundred gospel stations, and Signor Arrighi prophesies that the World's Evangelical Alliance will yet meet in St. Peter's Church and lodge its delegates in the chambers of the Vatican!" The outposts have been taken. The barriers have been removed. The fortifications have been levelled to the ground, and it remains for the hosts of God to follow up the movements of this holy, zealous advance guard and possess the land in the name of Jehovah. The next dozen years of this century will show how loyal to its opportunities the Church has been. Delay or hesitation now may be disaster. The duty is upon every one who has sworn allegiance to the cause. No one is exempt. There is something for every one to do. With what contempt we looked upon a citizen of our country when in its need he withheld his service. How hearty our approval of acts of self-denial in order that the cause espoused should be victorious. That was for love of country and humanity. Shall our feeling be less intense in manifestations of loyalty to Him who said "Go disciple all nations?"

#### PROGRESS IN JAPAN.

**A**N exceedingly interesting letter appears in the *Christian Advocate*, from the able and facile pen of Abel Stevens, D.D., LL.D., now in Japan. He groups together an extraordinary chapter of events, indicating the rapid approach of Japan towards Christian civilization.

The following is a summary of the remarkable changes that have taken place amongst the Japanese:

1. They have abolished their old dual sovereignty, and restored to power their ancient Mikado—the representative of a dynasty more than two thousand years old.
2. They have thrown off the strongest system of feudalism that history records.
3. They have established a single national army, a navy, and a general police after the Western models. All these are clothed in European costume, and drilled in European manner.
4. They have organized a remarkable system of national education, which General Grant pronounced when here, the best he had seen in his circuit of the globe. It was devised by an American. It comprises primary or common schools, normal and polytechnic academies, and an Imperial University on the model of the German University.
5. They have established a mail system, and have entered into the "Postal Union." After the example of England, their postal department includes the savings-bank system, and the deposits (mostly by the poorer classes) for last year amounted to \$12,500,000, nearly double the amount of the preceding year.
6. They have established a scientific medical Faculty with native physicians educated in Europe, and all the

European improvements, in place of their old medical jugglery.

7. They had no knowledge of the public journal before the arrival of Perry; they now have the public press, including no less than 500 periodicals—dailies, weeklies, monthlies; political, literary, scientific.

8. They have introduced the steamboat, the telegraph, the telephone, etc., now made by native hands. Native companies navigate the river and neighboring seas with excellent steamers, quite satisfactory to foreign travellers.

9. They are to have in 1890 a Constitutional Government—the first native example of it in Asia.

10. They have separated Shintoism and Buddhism from the Government, and abolished their administrative Bureau of Religion. Universal toleration prevails. The ancient faiths are considered barbaric and incompatible with the new career of the empire. The Government acknowledges itself to be without a religion, and is considering what form of Western cultus it may best adopt.

11. They have legally recognized the Christian Sabbath, and it is observed as a day of rest by all Government offices, the public schools, banks, etc.

### Our Young Folk.

#### CAST A LINE FOR YOURSELF.

**A** YOUNG man was listlessly watching some anglers on a bridge. He was poor and dejected. At last approaching a basket filled with wholesome-looking fish he sighed:

"If now I had these I would be happy, I could sell them at a fair price, and buy me food and lodgings."

"I will give you just as many and just as good fish," said the owner, who had chanced to overhear his words, "if you do me a trifling favor."

"And what is that," asked the other.

"Only to 'tend to this line till I come back, I wish to go on a short errand."

The proposal was gladly accepted. The old man was gone so long that the young man began to be impatient. Meanwhile the hungry fish snapped greedily at the baited hook, and the young man lost all his depression in the excitement of pulling them in; and when the owner of the line returned, he had caught a large number. Counting out from them as many as were in the basket, and presenting them to the young man, the old fisherman said: "I fulfil my promise from the fish you have caught, to teach you whenever you see others earning what you need, to waste no time in fruitless wishing, but cast a line for yourself."

#### CLEAN LIPS.

**Y**EARS ago a dear old lady whom we knew, taught a little private school in a certain town. Her heart was pure, and therefore her words were sweet. She loved the blessed Saviour, and cared very tenderly for the Lambs of His fold. She seemed to live in the little children's world, rejoicing and suffering with them.