

and preachings sandwiched in all along." It is reported that the number of Protestant baptisms throughout Japan averages at the present time about 120 each week.

A LENGTHY OVERTURE, signed by Dr. John Hall and others, has been forwarded from the New York Presbytery to the General Assembly in reply to an Episcopal declaration expressing a desire for Christian union. The overture sets forth the basis for conference with a view to union and co-operation in Christian work. The Presbyterians themselves, it goes on to say, "adhere to the Presbyter-Bishop of the New Testament and the apostolic times. They find the Presbyter-Bishop in all ages of the Church in unbroken succession till the present day. They have endeavored to adapt this Presbyterial-episcopate to the needs of the American people, and are ready to make any further adaptations that may seem to be necessary or important, and that do not conflict with the teachings of the New Testament. At the same time, they deem it their duty to testify against any claim of the diocesan episcopate to the exclusive right of ordination, as without warrant from the Word of God, and as one of the chief barriers to Christian union."

AT NANAIMO, B. C., 150 miners perished by the explosion of May 3. In Blantyre, Scotland, 75 died by another.

EARTHQUAKES in Mexico have done great damage, and the end is not yet. Shocks have also occurred in Quebec.

AFTER all the cry about annexation in Nova Scotia, when a vote was taken on it in the legislature only one member, Mr. McColl, could be found to support it.

#### JAPAN FOR JESUS.

THE Bible makes its way rapidly in Japan. The first Gospel printed in Japan, that of St. Mark, was issued in 1872, the whole New Testament in 1880, and the issue of the entire Scriptures in the native character is expected immediately. Meanwhile the National Bible Society of Scotland has issued a popular edition of the New Testament in Roman letter which is meeting with a large sale. The Board of the Society have agreed to join the other Bible Societies in publishing an edition of this Testament with references. The introduction and acceptance of the Scriptures in Roman letter marks a new and important epoch in the history of Christian Missions in Japan. From the Report of the Council of the United Missions in Japan

which is just to hand, it appears that the Union now includes 50 churches, with 4356 adult members. The gain last year in churches was 9, and in members 1128. The contributions of the native Christians for last year averaged seven shillings each. There are now 83 European and American missionaries in Japan.

#### THE SCHOOLS OF SCOTLAND.

IT is a matter of gratification to all interested in the religious welfare of youth that religious instruction according to use and wont is almost universally maintained in the Board Schools of Scotland. Whether the religious instruction, amid the subjects of an increasingly exacting Code, can receive the attention which it once received, is a question which we fear admits of only one answer. Still it is of the utmost consequence that the religious instruction should be as efficient and systematic as possible. Not a few School Boards have a Syllabus of religious instruction which enables their teachers to give a fairly comprehensive view of the contents of Scripture, especially of the Gospel history. The Association for aiding School Boards in the inspection of religious instruction—an Association embracing leading ministers and laymen of the three Presbyterian Churches—have now issued a valuable Syllabus. It has been prepared by the Rev. James Robertson, M. A., W. Littinghame, who has done the work in a masterly way. It is so arranged that a child passing from the lower to the higher standards (or divisions) may learn the life of our Lord not in fragments, but in a complete outline, which becomes fuller and more detailed in each successive year. Provision is made for a good acquaintance being made with the Old Testament history, while in repetition a place is given to the Shorter Catechism, the Apostles' Creed, and Psalms and Paraphrases, and also to great Scripture announcements and promises. The Syllabus is well worthy of the attention of teachers and parents, and Sabbath-school Associations would find it helpful and suggestive. Copies may be had, price 3d., from the Religious Tract Society, George Street, Edinburgh.

ATTENTION is called to the advertisement of the Ladies' College, on 2nd page of cover.

#### PAYMENTS FOR "RECORD."

By the Editor:—John Holmes, R. John, \$10; A. R. McKenzie, W. Branch, \$2.50; Rev. D. McKenzie, Lochiel, Ont. (Agent), \$5.50.