

"it is the first step which costs," and to-day Madagascar's queen, with 200,000 of her subjects, are followers of Christ.

WE regret that notice of the organization of a Branch in British Columbia in May last, together with copy of memorials of this Branch meeting, did not reach us in time for this issue.

THE Emperor of China has ordered all the distilleries in the flooded districts to be closed, that the grain may be saved for food. Wise Emperor! In Christian countries floods might almost be welcomed that would produce a like result, if only the experience of closed distilleries might be enjoyed for a season. When we consider the destruction of God-given food by these engineering of hell; the destruction of men for time and eternity by their enormous output; the woes and wants of bereaved and orphaned; the manifold crimes, and the utter degradation of manhood and womanhood; with the appalling waste of industrial value in men and material, we wonder how a people can complacently suffer the manufacture of liquor to exist among them. It is often said that if the Christian people of Canada were a unit on the abolition of this sinful traffic it would be speedily exterminated. Can it be true? Are we Canadian Christians living under the terrible responsibility of tolerating among us the worst enemy of the Gospel, the chief bane to the triumph of that kingdom for whose coming we actually pray, in the words of our blessed Lord, every day of our lives?

MR. JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG, ex-minister to China, attributes the recent riots in China and the uprising against missionaries to opium. He says, "The educated Chinaman now knows that opium was forced upon him by the arms of Great Britain, that the rulers of the Indian empire might balance the budget of the vast dependency, and the feeling in China is terribly bitter in consequence. 'We issue decrees,' the Chinese statesmen say, 'degrading officials and punishing others who give way to opium. We would drive it out of the empire, but it would be war again, as it was war before. And you call this your new faith. You say you come to teach us how to be better in this life, and happier in the life to come. These are beautiful words, but when we ask what you bring, we see opium.' Unfortunately the Chinese mind does not discriminate against foreigners. All alike are 'foreign devils' seeking to despoil their ancient empire."

If ever the stumbling-blocks and the stones of offence are removed from the highways, to "prepare

the way of the Lord," the work must be done by the Lord's own people. God does not do for us that which He has given us power to do for ourselves. With faith in God, with prayer for His guidance and help, let men and women use their God-given powers to rid all lands of these "iniquities for gain;" to make government godly, that under its beneficent sway manhood may be more precious than money, and revenues raised by the industries of the people rather than by their vice and degradation. Our Prayer Leaflets have compassed these subjects during the year, presenting the points clearly and fairly; but oh! for a flood-tide of holy, righteous sentiment, to wash away for ever the petty theories, the plausible policies, the vain, insinuating, fallacies, with which Christian people solace themselves about these national sins.

"THE Empress and members of the aristocracy of Japan," say the *Woman's Missionary Record*, "have given up the wearing of the Western style of dress for women, and the native historical costumes are again to be worn exclusively."

It is with missionary work as with everything else those who *know* little, care little, give little.

THE Pioneer (American) Society, in zenana work in India, is the "Woman's Union Missionary Society" of America, for heathen lands, organized in 1860, with work in Calcutta, Cawnpore and Allahabad, in Shanghai and Yokohama. Their methods are educational, evangelistic and medical. Two lady physicians are in charge of the Margaret Williams' Hospital, in Shanghai. A home for medical workers has been donated during the year. In Calcutta, sixty-four schools, sixteen missionaries, 1,000 zenana pupils, a girls' orphanage, an institution for the higher education of native Christian girls, a medical training class, and a dispensary opened during the year. In Allahabad, sixteen missionaries, six native assistants, forty-seven day schools, with 1,000 pupils, 320 zenanas, with 398 pupils. In Cawnpore, thirteen missionaries, 960 pupils, 184 zenanas, with 345 pupils. In Yokohama, a girls' school with 140 pupils. Aid is given to denominational missions, among others, the McCall, Paris; Cairo, Egypt. The *Missionary Link* is the organ of this Society, published monthly.

WE take the liberty of copying into this number the admirable study, entitled "Mite-box Service," from the *Heathen Woman's Friend*. We have very often urged the value of studies in Auxiliary and Band meetings, but we do not hear of their general use. What the difficulty is we know not; but we are quite