

THE WORLD PROBLEM

prominent Japanese to whom Christian preaching had as yet made no appeal.

But "a king arose who knew not Joseph." The venerable, imperial-visioned Enoch Wood had passed into the beyond; the policy of the Board had changed. The union of the larger Methodism with the "minor bodies," struggling on another plane, brought in elements unsympathetic; a plethora of men had to be fed, the great North-West was opening out, large and open-mouthed for money and suitable men. The Central Tabernacle and its missionary were made to appear too large in conception, too enthusiastic in appeal, too radical and too expensive. The self-supporting band must be suppressed; the missionary must be recalled; the work reduced to the ordinary. The process was a slow one from the first year to the third. The intuitions of the man felt what the end must be, but the appeal of the God-given work, of fellow-workers, and of the imperial opportunity in Japan held him on his way, "his face towards Jerusalem."

At last, near the end of 1893, physical strength could endure no more; he laid the burden of the operation down. The cloud settled: the worse than death had come.

"But," said one, attempting to console, "you know that this will brighten your crown, the loss of the mission will enrich you!" The wrath within him rose. "Begone such ideas of God! Not by ruin shall my life be crowned, but by unfettered work. I do not blame God for this colossal blunder. No crown seek I, but the furtherance of a Christ-inspired work." The only gleam of steadying hope was that out of an apparently broken