

course of lectures, similar to that about to be held in the Meiji Kwaido under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance, could be an annual fact, and celebrated men of power could occasionally be invited from abroad to make a still larger impression by such efforts as have moved the West. The man in charge should be one who commands an outlook upon the intellectual ebb and flow of the land, to meet issues as they arise by a perennial use of platform and pen."

At subsequent crowded meetings of the Conference, when Yokohama missionaries were also largely represented, the desirability of such a Christian institute was strongly urged.

Difficulties however arose as to the practical realization of the scheme, and the whole thing fell through. In March and April of the same year a second course of lectures was given, this time under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance. These were likewise largely attended and produced marked results, strengthening the impression that such work should be more constant and on a wider scale. As it seemed however impossible to unite the missions in the enterprise, I turned to our own church and urged that we should undertake central mission work in the city, which, while under the auspices of the Methodist Church of Japan, would as far as possible carry on the work of popular apologetics, not doubting that help would be forthcoming from other churches as well; for the influence of such an enterprise could not possibly be confined to one denomination, but would be for the general advancement of the cause as a whole. While in Canada and the United States during a part of the years 1885-6 I spoke repeatedly of the need of the undertaking and seemed to arouse considerable interest in it, but little was done in the way of raising money. Subsequently amounts were sent in aggregating between one and two thousand dollars, an earnest of larger gifts if the work were only once inaugurated. Hence at our annual meeting last spring it was decided to open a "Central Mission" in the midst of that section of the city largely occupied by government and other educational institutions. There is to be a "Central Hall," seating between one and two thousand people, for all the purposes of a Christian institute and evangelistic work.

Providence has put into our hand just such a piece of ground, and in the place we needed. This we have secured for 4,000 yen, paid for by the money referred to above and other amounts collected in Japan.

We want \$4,000 (gold) to build at once. It would be better to build of brick, but we believe it better to build a temporary structure and get to work rather than postpone longer. In the meantime we shall probably build with borrowed money in the expectation that this appeal will bring the wherewithal to pay. Our church has seen fit to appoint the writer to the charge of this "Central Mission" work, and I appeal to friends of Japan in every church because the

results will not be reaped alone by one denomination, but by all, and will advance the Christianization of Japan as a whole.

Funds may be sent to the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto, Canada, or direct to me, 18 Kasumi cho, Azabu, Tokio. C. S. EAY.

A Voice from India.

INDIA has about 800 foreign missionaries wholly ordained ministers—a noble band and nobler still judged by what they have done. We want more missionaries. Dr. Pierson's lay brigade of men of means who give their service and money; of men whose friends have means and support them as an offering for this world's salvation; of those who in secular service here teach the rising Christian host how to utilize and develop the resources of this great land. Doctors, merchants, lawyers, engineers, financiers, editors, educators, authors, bankers, scientists and philosophers—all are needed. The devil is sending in hosts of all these, and paying them well out of the indigenous resources of this land, to oppose the gospel and leave as little as possible for Christianity to feed upon. A few men called to the exclusive work of the ministry are not the only ones to whom Jesus says, "Go preach my gospel." The great command is to every individual believer, and men of all callings ought to be found obeying. There is too much left to be done *by proxy* in these days. If men of means would for Christ's sake come here and use their wealth for the work, their business sense and sagacity would nobly serve the cause. "Cotton kings" have left old England for the commercial fortunes life offers. Real estate yields a heavy revenue here to English and native house-owners. Our great lawyers, and editors, and bankers, and engineers are Englishmen, but too seldom Christians.

The native Christians of this country now number over half a million. Christian men and women in every line of human pursuit are demanded to teach by example and precept these Christians to labor and do business. The finance problem is troubling all missions. Three thousand volunteers offer for foreign service. But what of the financial limit? We need a *producing element on the battle-field*. India is poor, but she spends more for tobacco and spirituous liquors than 10,000 new missionaries need cost.

Out here the idea is getting deeply rooted, as in too many home churches, that no one has any duty toward the unevangelized but those who are *paid* to preach. The expediency of missionary efforts is questioned by some. Let some of God's almoners come and see for themselves, and stay and administer their own benefactions for God and His Christ.

The great body of the people here are agri-