

way with the pure and undefiled Gospel. May the ministers and congregations of Japan be preserved from haughtiness and aberrations, so that true Christianity can reign more and more among them. Thus they will attain to all due emancipation from foreign elements and come into possession of a spiritual development which shall be at home in Japan and yet genuinely Christian."

MISCELLANEOUS.

—Missionary Berg, of the Danish Society, has a good word to say for our countrymen in the *Missions-Blad*: "It is a pleasure to be in company with Americans; for altho they speak English they have none of the stiff, short, reserved way of English people. They neither recognize English class feeling nor the pronounced Scotch clannishness; but for the language, my American companions might just as well have been Danes, so plain and straightforward were they in their whole demeanor."

As Mr. Brace remarks, the Scandinavian blood of the east counties of England is peculiarly strong in America, especially in New England, and many of us show it in our Danish names, including our editor-in-chief.

—"The well-known book of Gundert, 'Evangelical Missions, their Lands, Peoples, and Labors,' closes its review of the present state of the evangelical missionary work with the words: 'A little beginning has been made; the earth is yet very full of night.' It is true, if we compare the condition of missions to-day with that of one hundred or even in part of fifty years ago, we must admit a great advance. Then a world closed to the Gospel of Christ; to-day one opened to it. Then a world sleeping in rationalism, to which missions appeared as a folly; to-day a mighty missionary spirit breathing through all divisions of the Church. Then scanty even as to numbers, a little troop of inexperienced missionaries; to-day a stately army of tried heralds of the faith, who have

taken in possession a domain reaching far beyond the boundaries of the world's postal union, and who, as pioneers of culture and national development, occupy an honorable position even in the eyes of the world. Then total contributions each year of a few hundred thousands, now spontaneous offerings of over 50,000,000 marks. Then a missionary result of at most a few tens of thousands of Christians from the heathen; to-day a company of some 3,000,000, a capital which each decade increases at compound interest. Then here and there an isolated, independent congregation from among the heathens; to-day thousands of organized congregations supporting themselves and furnishing from their midst teachers and preachers, indeed, here and there already passing into national churches! This is verily a Divine legitimization of the missionary commission, that it should, 1800 years after it was given, as it were, rise out of its grave and set in motion a movement of the world's history which has made this century a missionary century."—*Allgemeine Missions Zeitschrift*.

—"And yet the main citadels of heathenism are hardly besieged, far indeed from being taken."—*Idem*.

—"The invitation, 'Come over into Macedonia and help us,' is a pregnant, significant word. Sometimes, however, it is so ill applied as to work more harm than good for labor in the kingdom of God. There is always a retribution when any one heedlessly wrests words or narratives of the Scripture out of their true connection, or overlooks some important circumstance, or in any way does violence to a passage. For instance, in order to move the hearts of people in Christendom and to warm them into interest for missions among the heathen, it has been only too customary so to generalize Paul's vision as if it were true that the people of all or almost all heathen lands were weary of idolatry and the service of sin, and were longing for something new, for truth, were standing on the shores or borders