

compulsory to all children between the ages of eight and fourteen. The government university is at the capital, under the care of Dr. Juan Ferros, who is said to be a learned man and practical educator. He has able professors to aid him. There is a system of graded schools under the direction of the minister of education. There has been a constitutional amendment adopted which separates the Church from the State. Under that law the monks and nuns were expelled from the State, and the monasteries and nunneries were confiscated and taken for school-houses and other public uses, and the power and perquisites of the priests substantially taken away. Still the Roman Catholic religion is the State religion; but the constitution and laws guarantee religious liberty and toleration.

There are no missionaries in Costa Rica. There are some Protestants in the towns, and in the capital there is a small chapel where services are read and hymns are sung, and sometimes a sermon is read by a layman, but there is seldom a minister present to take part in the exercises. The English societies have talked of establishing a missionary station at the capital and other places, but have not yet done so. The time has arrived when there should be missionary stations, and it is believed there is a great blessing in store for those who will raise the standard of the Gospel in this land.

[Since the above was written and in the printer's hands, we have received the following bugle-blast from that veteran and accomplished student and writer in the missionary world, Dr. L. P. Brockett, and we give it place here as a valuable and powerful indorsement of the views expressed in the article referred to.—J. M. S.]

America for Christ.

DEAR DR. SHERWOOD: I was very much interested—as who that loves the cause of missions was not—in the communication, in the March MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD, entitled “Nicaragua as a Missionary Field.”

The importance of occupying some accessible point on the Nicaragua Inter-Oceanic Canal as a universal missionary station cannot be over-estimated. In a higher sense than any other point on the globe, that canal

will be “the highway of the nations,” the “gate of the world.” Through it will pass, when it is completed, the ships of all nations, and the peoples of every land and race. Not only will the ships and steamers of all the ports on both sides of the American continent, from Labrador to Terra del Fuego, and from the Straits of Magellan to Alaska, pass through this highway, but the ships of Russia, Scandinavia, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy; of all the African and Mediterranean ports, of all Asiatic ports, India, Burmah, China, Japan; all Australasian, Malaysian, Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian ports, must find their way thither, for the exchange of the world's commodities; and, either by the distribution of tracts, pamphlets, and especially portions of the Word of God in all the languages spoken by these peoples, or by the employment of colporteurs, or native missionaries, to embark on all the larger of these ships and steamers, and preach Christ to them, must these various nationalities be reached.

2. It is indispensable that this movement should be one in which *all evangelical Christian* churches shall have a part. The denominational missionary societies have accomplished very much towards the evangelization of the world, and have been wonderfully blessed in their labors; but here is a point, where, by their *united* action, the time may be hastened, at least by a half century, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and yet where no one of the churches may say to another, “Stand back, this is my field; I alone will occupy it.” No! the sacramental host of God's elect must march forward under the leadership of the Captain of their Salvation, for the conquest of not only *our own great continent*, but the conquest of the *world for Christ*. Let the advancing columns bear on their gonfalons the legend, “*America*