

not know whether the attendance is limited to those who are, or have been, missionaries, but a letter addressed to the Secretary, Rev. W. H. Belden, Bridgeton, New Jersey, will bring all desired information.

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A LETTER from Rev. Thos. Crosby, dated Feb. 8th, contains the following welcome announcement: "The *Glad Tidings* here, all right."

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WITHIN the past two or three years the methods of the various Missionary Societies, especially in England, as well as the stipends paid to the foreign missionaries, have been subjected to very severe criticism. Educational work has been opposed, and a clamor raised for the "evangelization of the masses." The points involved in the controversy have been carefully considered at a General Conference of Wesleyan missionaries, at Bangalore, India. The Conference strongly affirmed the importance of educational work, and protested against the proposal to substitute laymen for missionaries in this department. The proposal of a "cheaper European agency" was not strongly favored.

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The Missionary Year Book. Vol. I. New York: Fleming H. Revell. This is a 12mo volume of 428 pages, packed full and overflowing with missionary information. Statistical and other facts have been compiled with vast labor, and printed in a form to make them easily accessible. The list includes fifty-two general, and twenty-five medical, tract, and other missionary agencies in Great Britain; twenty-six on the continent of Europe; thirty-six in the United States, and six in Canada. The volume contains ten maps and six other charts, which add greatly to its value. Those who desire to post themselves in regard to the missionary work of to-day, cannot do better than send for a copy of the *Year Book*.

THE young native preachers at work in the capital of Madagascar have united for the purpose of sending some of their number to the heathen in the outlying districts of the island. Thus the Gospel works. The seed roots in the native soil, and from them will spring the laborers who will win the land for Christ.

MR. GEORGE MULLER, who is travelling and preaching among the Himalayas, has written the fiftieth annual report of his famous Orphanage at Bristol, England. Since the institution was founded it has received and spent more than \$5,500,000; more than 109,000 persons have been entirely supported and educated in it, and tens of thousands materially assisted; five large houses, capable of affording homes for 2,056 orphans, have been built at a cost of \$572,000, and sixty-six schools are now maintained. Yet the institution has never been a penny in debt, and has never directly or indirectly asked for human aid.

Editorial and Contributed.

THE first century of Christian missions is a little more than complete, not the century of Society organization, but of individual consecration to missionary work. The pioneers of Baptist missions, of the Church Missionary Society, and the London Missionary Society, began their career about 1786, and in that same year Dr. Coke was sent to found missions in the West Indies. Looking back over that period, there is much to inspire both thankfulness and hope. At the beginning of the century a little timid reconnoitring seemed to be all that was possible; now the missionary army marches with the tread of a conquering host, and the whole world is before it. The first century of missions is great as a history, but it is infinitely greater as a prophecy. The next half century should see the whole world evangelized.

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MISSIONS, like men, must be "born from above," if they are to be recognized as permanent forces in the kingdom of God. In widespread revivals we need not be disappointed if we find some cases of spurious conversion; and in a missionary revival like that which is now sweeping over the Churches, we are not unlikely to encounter movements that are the outcome of vanity and ambition mingling with other movements born of the Holy Ghost. The marvellous blessing that has attended the labors of such men as Bishop Taylor of Africa, J. Hudson Taylor of the China Inland Mission, and D. L. Moody in home evangelization, is bringing to the front a number of feeble imitators, who think they have only to adopt similar methods to accomplish similar results. The danger is that much missionary zeal will be frittered away on a thousand little independent efforts which, if combined and concentrated, would mightily move the nations.

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BUT there is another side to this matter. What is the meaning of this sudden uprising—this sudden rushing into new channels and development of new methods? May not one of its meanings be that in the management and control of missionary organizations an ultra conservatism has unduly repressed enthusiasm, instead of guiding it, till now it threatens to burst the barriers and carry all before it? To say that the Church has been very slow—even unwilling—to utilize all the forces at its command, is the merest truism, and to this very fact may be traced many of the schisms that have rent the seamless robe and wounded the body of Christ. Wise guidance is better than repression, and kindly recognition is better than