

It is said that a snail in the British Museum that had been glued to a card for four years came to life when dipped in warm water. What a possibility of hope this opens up with reference to a large class of church members who have not manifested signs of vitality for several years! Let us hope for the warming influences of grace.

THERE are 1,000,000,000 people who are yet without the Gospel. The number of trained missionaries laboring amongst them is 10,000, with 25,000 native assistants. There is, therefore, only one minister to every 100,000 of the heathen. \$10,000,000 per year are spent on foreign missions—equal to one cent per year on each of the heathen. Don't you think one cent a year a rather small amount to spend yearly on each heathen to effect his conversion.—*Crisis of Missions.*

No man amounts to much until he learns that he must stand alone and do his own work. Beware of leaning on others or complaining that others neglect or hinder you. The truth is that others are too busy with their own tasks to stop long, either to help or hinder you. Your success must be wrought out by your own strong arm. You must make your own way; if you lag behind, no one will be found to carry you. Of course you should seek Divine assistance, but it is vain to expect that even God will help you if you fail to do your best to help yourself.

SOME one wrote Chaplain McCabe, asking him to take stock in a silver mine which was to be worked in the interest of missions and church extension. His reply is a gem which the *Christian Advocate* has preserved. It is as follows: "We have two mines already which we are working with great success. One of them is 'self-denial,' situated in the Valley of Humiliation; the other is 'consecration,' which is entered on the heavenly side of the brook Peniel. These are glorious mines! Their riches are inexhaustible. There is enough in them to bring the world to Christ."

THE largest hanging bell in the world is in a Buddhist monastery near Canton, China. It is eighteen feet high and forty-five feet in circumference, and is of solid bronze. It is one of eight great bells which were cast by command of the Emperor Yung-lo, about A.D. 1400, and is said to have cost the lives of eight men, who were killed during the process of its casting. The bell, both inside and out, and even on the handle, is covered with an inscription of embossed Chinese characters, numbering eighty-four thousand. The characters tell a single story—one of the Chinese classics.

DURING an illness, the illustrious scholar Bengel sent for a student in the Theological Institution, and requested him to impart a word of consolation. The youth replied, "Sir, I am but a pupil, a mere learner; I don't know what to say to a teacher like you." "What!" said Bengel, "a divinity student, and not able to communicate a word of Scriptural comfort!" The student, abashed, contrived to utter the text, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin." "That is the very word I want," said Bengel; "it is quite enough," and, taking him affectionately by the hand, dismissed him.

WHEN Lady Dufferin began her scheme for the improvement of the physical condition of women in India, seven years ago, it was hardly expected that in so short a time such striking results would be achieved. Last year 466,000 women received medical treatment. The staff now consists of 9 women doctors and 31 assistants, and the number of native and Eurasian women under instruction steadily increases. . . . Of the women of India, 40,000,000 are shut up in zenanas, 23,000,000 are widows, and 79,000 were widows before they were nine years of age. Only one woman in 800 is under instruction, and but one Protestant missionary if found to 500,000 of the population.—*Missionary Review.*

CHINESE CONVERTS.—The sincerity and devotion of the Christian converts in China are sometimes questioned, but let all doubters consider a fact reported in the *North China Daily News* of August last, that, during a riot in the province of Sz'chuen, when one of the missionaries, Mr. Turner, was seized with his wife and children, and was taken to the yamen, the order being to beat them, two native Christians volunteered to be beaten in their places. This substitution

was accepted, and the converts bore the beating, while the missionaries were sent from the place. It is easy to make a slur about "rice Christians," but there are numberless instances of self-sacrificing devotion like this we have named which make the sarcasm redound upon those who uttered it.

MOHAMMEDANISM always becomes weaker and weaker without political power, and that political power is always and everywhere necessary to its extension and growth. It never has been, never can be, never will be formidable without that power. Just now it is making strenuous efforts to recoup its heavy and continued losses in nearly all Mohammedan countries by recruits from among the negroes of Africa; but that ground will soon be found unproductive. The word of the Lord hath spoken all this—and more. The English Church Missionary Society reports one thousand recent converts from Islam; the Rhenish Society, two thousand; in Java there are at least twelve thousand Christian converts from Mohammedanism, while in India the numbers are increasing wonderfully.—*North-Western Christian Advocate.*

ONE of the missionaries from the Presbyterian Church in the United States to Japan gives the following illustration of the devotion of a certain Japanese pastor whom she calls "one of the noblest men I ever met." "Not long ago, the head man of a large government school here asked him to give up his church where he receives 20 odd yen a month, and accept a position in the school at 100 yen a month. He replied without a moment's hesitation, "I am here to teach Christianity." The man went off and wrote him a letter, to say that if he would teach for them two hours a day they would pay him 60 yen a month and he could still retain his church. The single-hearted pastor replied, 'I have given my whole time to the work of teaching Christianity,' and that was the end of it. He has a wife, four children and his sister to support."

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The Missionary Outlook

Is published at the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto. Single copies 40 cents per annum. Clubs of eight or more copies (separately if desired), 25 cents per copy. Owing to regulations regarding postage the club rate does not apply to the City of Toronto, where the ordinary rate of 40 cents has to be charged.

Address all orders to REV. A. SUTHERLAND, METHODIST MISSION ROOMS, TORONTO.